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The Power and Pleasure of the
DIVINE LIFE:

Exemplify'd in the late

Mrs. HOUSMAN, *(H.)*
Of Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

As Extracted from her own Papers.

Methodized and Published
By the Rev^d Mr. RICHARD PEARSALL.

To which is subjoined,
An Account of her Triumphant Death, drawn
up by one that attended her in her last Sickness.

Recommended by the Reverend
Mr. Richard Rawlin^s, Mr. Thomas Hall,
and Mr. Joseph Stennett.

*That ye be not slothful, but Followers of them, who thro'
Faith and Patience inherit the Promises. Heb. vi. 12.*

L O N D O N:

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The Recommendation.

HAVING perused the Diary which is here presented to public View, we cannot but think, that as it exhibits a remarkable Example of the Christian Life, so it gives a fresh Testimony to the admirable Efficacy of the distinguishing Grace of God. By this Mrs. Howman was brought, as she herself acknowledges, to a clear sight of her Apostasy and Vileness of the human Nature, and to a deep Conviction, both of the Insufficiency of our own Righteousness, and of the Necessity of an Intercessor by Faith in the imputed Righteousness of CHRIST, for our Justification and Acceptance with God.

And from these brief Memoirs of her spiritual Life, wrote with her own Hand, it evidently appears, that by the same Grace she was led into a delightful Fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ; such as filled her renewed and

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The Recommendation.

and pious Soul with the most devout Affection to her Saviour, and with an uniform and ardent Zeal to glorify his Name by a Temper and Conversation becoming *the Gospel*, in every Relation and Change of Life thro' which she passed.

These Things are here declared in such an unaffected, undisguised, and self-abasing Manner, and yet with that Degree of Pungency and Fervour, as we can't but hope will strike the Minds, and warm the Hearts of true Believers: especially since the following Sheets will entertain them with a farther very confirming Evidence of the Reality, Power, and Sweetness that there is in the Intercourse with Heaven, which in this present State the Saints enjoy.

And what gave us the more Satisfaction in looking over these Papers, was to find that they constantly express the highest Regard for the *Scripture - Revelation*: Their pious Author being very solicitous to have all her Experiences adjusted, and all her Hopes formed, according to the infallible Testimony of the Word of God. And tho' we would not be thought hereby to vindicate every particular Expression that

The Recommendation.

that may occur herein; yet, since this little Piece breathes so much of the Spirit of the Gospel, discovers a Mind so deeply impress'd with its Grace, and contains so many Things that seem to us to have an apparent Tendency to promote a Life of Faith and true Religion, we could not refuse giving it a cheerful Recommendation, which we are persuaded All who shall read it with serious Attention will judge it highly deserves.

That thro' the Divine Blessing it may become an effectual Means of quickening and encouraging those, into whose Hands Providence shall cast it, in their faithful Endeavours after the like holy and close Communion with God, the like religious, believing, and circumspect Walk thro' Life, and of raising them to the like joyful and triumphant Exit at Death, as Mrs. *Housman* was graciously blessed with; is our earnest Desire.

Richard Rawlin.

London, Nov. 30.

Thomas Hall.

1743.

Joseph Stennett.

For we are not to expect here the airy flights of
 vapour which, that it may be so.

TH E S i g h t of the following Papers

It was your Privilege that you had her, and so long enjoyed her. Her frequent Counsels in the best Things, her friendly Admonitions, the suitable Supports she administer'd to you in your various Afflictions, and the Living Example she was of distinguished Piety in it's various Branches, ought ever to be remember'd with Thankfulness, and, I must add, with a serious Concern to improve them. Among the many Talents we have, no doubt the Society and Conversation

sation of the Excellent ones of the Earth, whom Providence favours us with, are not the least. And if so, your deceased Friend and Relative must be thought of, not only as one that was very much the Delight of your Eyes, while in the midst of you, but as one for whom you are to look upon yourselves accountable, and by whose exemplary Life you are to be influenced to living Religion: And it is the great Design of sending these Papers abroad, that it may be so.

You are not to expect here the airy Flights of a strong Fancy, but the fervent Breakings of a Heaven-born Soul towards God and Glory. And tho' I don't think her Manner of expressing herself at all contemptible; yet if her Language hath not in it the Air of a studied Politeness, as some may wish, Christians of the best Judgment know how to excuse this. However such Embellishments may be studied at other Times, and upon other Occasions; yet when the Soul hath immediately to do with it's God and Redeemer, in the most solemn and devout Frame, or hath the near Prospect of Death and Eternity, these external Decorations fall from it like Elijah's Mantle when ascending to God, and present the Soul more than ever in it's genuine and native Dress.

I am not altogether unacquainted with the Spirit and Temper of the present Age. I know very well, that many things here will not be acceptable to some; they may be too nice and critical to relish any thing in so plain, as others may

vj To the near Relations, &c.

Unseate what is in so serious a Dress. But were I not persuaded by others, and apprehensive myself, at the same time, of a different Gust in many others, and that the Tendency of this Publication was to the Glory of God's Grace, and the quickening of Survivors in the Path leading to the heavenly Canaan, neither the Press nor the Publick would have had any trouble given them.

The Design of this Attempt then is not that of the Athenians, (Acts xvii. 12.) to spend the Editor's and Reader's Time in telling and bearing some new thing; but that the Church of God may have one more added to that Cloud of Witnesses which have gone before, that Religion is a Reality; that this vital Religion powerfully influences the Heart and Life of the genuine Christian, and that it yields living Comforts in various Afflictions, and at length in dying Agonies. These and many such excellent Things your Friend Mrs. Housman by her Papers yet speaketh. Hers was a Religion not made up of Controversy, did not consist in Speculation, nor terminate in perverse Disputings or Wranglings; but she daily lived the noble Truths she embraced from the Gospel. Nor were her Consolations the Starts of a heated Brain; but she had long and seriously studied the glorious Gospel; she was cast into the Mould * of it by Divine Grace; she had

* Ram. vi. 17. *ἐν τῷ ἑαυτῆς ὅτι τοῦτο.* Hoc dicendi genus magnam quandam Emphasin videtur habere. Ita enim significatur Evangelicam Doctrinam quasi instar Typi

To the near Relations
of the Deceased.

vij

had given great Diligence † to the Attainment of a full Assurance of Hope unto the End, and was not slothful, and was able both to herself and others to give a Reason of the Hope that was in her.

My Friends, Dying Work is serious Work. It was so to this excellent Woman. She did not face Death with a Roman Unconcernedness, but with the greatest Solemnity; at the same time it was with a holy Fearfulness. The Victory she obtained and the Triumph she began to exercise were founded upon the Conquest of the Lamb, her Interest in his Death, and the lively View she had of those her happy Circumstances. She could reflect with an uncommon Delight upon her solemn, deliberate Closure with him, as tender'd in the Gospel. She had trusted the Merits of his Death, the Validity of his Sacrifice, and entrusted all the Concerns of her Soul in his Hands as the great and only Mediator. She did at the same time bow before him as her Sovereign, well knowing the Duty she owed him as Lord both of the Dead and of the Living, and the Need she stood in of him to subdue, as her other Enemies, so the stubbornness of her own Heart, and that he is the Author of eternal Salvation to those only that do obey him.

A 5

Mrs.

Typi cujusdam esse, Cui veluti immitamur, ut ejus figuræ conformemur & totam istam transformationem aliunde provenire, &c. *Wid. Bez. in loc.*

† Heb. ix. 11 and 12.

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viii To the near Relations, &c.

Mr. Housman was born of religious Parents, Persons who were a Credit to the Profession they made; and as in other Respects they acted worthily in their Station, so they were diligently careful to train up their Children betimes in the Ways of God. Their House was a little Sanctuary. They walked in an upright Way before Children and Servants. It was their Concern to initiate them early into what was religious, and then to improve them in their advancing Years. When and how it was that divine Grace laid hold effectually upon the Heart of this their Eldest, we may gather best from what she has herself left upon Record in one of her Papers. Mentioning with Thankfulness the Mercies that attended her Birth and Education, and speaking of her good Parents, she adds, "They set me under the Droppings of God's Sanctuary, and there I had the Advantage of hearing one of the most eminent Ministers of Jesus Christ, worthy Mr. Spilbury. This was not all; I was convinced at least by it, and that very young. I remember when I was Thirteen, God was pleas'd to make very lively Impressions upon me. I remember I was brought to a Sort of Love to the Ordinances and Ministers; and tho' I had been us'd to be content to stay at home on Lord's Days, then I was desirous of going out every Lord's Day; and should be somewhat affected under the Word. Particularly I remember one Time Mr. Spilbury was preaching from Rom. xiv. 9. For
" this

“ this End Christ died, and rose, and revived,
 “ that he might be the Lord both of the Dead
 “ and of the Living. He exhorted us that we
 “ would all give up ourselves to this Lord, and
 “ that too this very Evening we should solemnly
 “ do it. And those that could write would put
 “ it down, that such a Time they had solemnly
 “ avouched the Lord to be their God, and had
 “ resigned themselves to be his faithful Servants.
 “ Those that could not write should tell it to some
 “ faithful Friend, that they might, as they saw
 “ Occasion, put them in mind of their solemn
 “ Engagements. I was brought, when bearing,
 “ to resolve to attempt somewhat of this Work.
 “ I thought I was serious. I think I was more
 “ than ordinarily affected in my secret Duties.
 “ I think I then began to pray without the
 “ Forms I had learnt in my Childhood, (tho’ I
 “ did not quite leave them off then) and that
 “ Evening I did write down something of what
 “ I had been doing. This hath been very af-
 “ fecting in the Review, and I here record it to
 “ the Praise of distinguishing Goodness.”

She made Religion her Business more than most
 I ever knew. Diligent she was to fill up her
 Place in respect to worldly Affairs, and that too
 beyond most. But O the Multitude of Seasons she
 redeemed for Converse with God and her own
 Soul in her Closet. She was far from being short
 or slight in her Devotions. Not only do these
 Papers testify it, but every one that dwelt in the
 Family could not but be in some Degree or other
 acquainted

x To the near Relations, &c.

acquainted with it. How often with her Lord a great while before Day in the Morning? and when the Family was retired to their Rest, she would have her Retirement of a nobler Kind. "Return to thy Rest, O my Soul." "I will go unto the Altar of God, unto God mine exceeding Joy." Tho' I was myself but a School-boy, I remember what a Frame she seem'd many Times to be in, when called down to Family-Prayer in a Morning, especially on Lord's Days; she seem'd to have been in the Mount with God, a Mount of Transfiguration. It hath often since put me in mind of the Descent of Moses from Mount Sinai: Her Countenance seem'd to have a heavenly Lustre upon it. So much Solemnity, Sweetness, Majesty, Mildness, that I can't express the Idea I still retain of it, tho' 30 Years ago.

She was one, many of you know by Experience, that took great Pains among her younger Relations and Acquaintance, to quicken and encourage them to and in what was good. She was capacitated for the Work by superior Gifts and Grace, and she laid out herself for the Prosperity of Souls. Gratitude should glow in my Breast, while I speak upon this Subject. She was not willing to go to Heaven alone. How often would she retire from the World with a young Person with her, (and sometimes a Society of them) and call over the Sermons lately heard in Publick, and in a most humble, sweet, serious and winning way, labour to impress the Contents of them!

And

And to this she would occasionally add Prayer. Both praying herself in her Chamber with them, and kindly inviting them to pray with her. I may the more freely speak upon this Subject, as I not only saw it with regard to others, but had myself when young a peculiar Interest in it.

The same deep and affectionate Concern for Souls that I am now mentioning shew'd itself this way. As she had her Eye upon those about her at publick Ordinances, if she saw any attend with greater Seriousness than common, she wou'd take the first Opportunity, either by going or sending to them, to converse with them on religious Subjects; labouring to help on the Impressions they had receiv'd. With what Seriousness and Tenderness wou'd she recommend Religion, and the good Ways of the Lord, to their early Choice; advising and persuading them to persevere; and to increase therein more and more; putting them in mind that they were not too young to die; that Youth was the most proper Season to turn to the Lord; testifying from her own Experience the Benefits and Comforts that result from early Piety, and how well it wou'd be for them to take upon them the Yoke of Christ in their young Days; shewing them at the same time what Pleasantness and Peace are to be found in Wisdom's Ways; what a Privilege it was to have a God to go to under all their Griefs and Fears, &c. And I am informed, many have thank'd her, and bless'd God for her good Advice and serious Exhortations.

And

And the same Divine Charity carried her farther. As many Children were taken in by the Week to be employ'd in Trade Concerns, some of these she took pains with, teaching them to read, and employing them to read the Scriptures to her daily; and as they went along, she wou'd explain the sacred Writings, and help them to understand the great Things contained in them.

Neither were the Bodies of her poor Neighbours overlook'd; she did not think it beneath her to visit the Meanest when sick: and as she frequently dropp'd spiritual Advice and Comfort, so she wou'd send in Provision for them and Families.

And if all this (and more of the same Nature) was her Method with regard to others, what may we suppose were the Pains she took with those of her own Family? As a Daughter of Abraham, she had learnt to command her Child and Servants to walk in the Way of the Lord. As Sabbaths and the Duties of them were her Delight, she contriv'd Matters so, that no Servant might have Occasion to stay at home, and lose the Benefit of publick Ordinances; from whom, as well as from her Child, she expected an Account of what they had been hearing.

But peculiarly remarkable and exemplary was the Care she exercis'd towards her young Daughter, as she grew up. Here I am put in mind of Isaiah xxviii. 9, 10. Whom did she teach Knowledge? And whom did she make to understand Doctrine? Even her that was weaned

weaned from the Milk, and Drawn from the Breast. Precept was upon Precept, &c. I scarce think that Timothy's Mother began sooner, when it's said, From a Child (*ἀπὸ παιδός*)^{*} thou hast known the Holy Scriptures. As soon as ever she could imbibe them, she began to instil religious Principles; particularly of the evil Nature and pernicious Consequences of Sin; her own original Depravity; her lost Estate while out of Christ; the Necessity of an Interest in him in order to Salvation; the All-sufficiency of his Merit and Atonement, if apply'd by Faith; the Necessity of Prayer; of Love to God above all, as he is the Greatest and Best of Beings; and then Love to all that wear the human Nature, and a strict Regard to the whole Train of Christian Virtues. Instructions of this Kind, as Occasions presented themselves, were her daily habitual Exercise: But besides these, she wou'd do it sometimes in a more set, solemn Manner, taking her into her Closet, and there praying with her and for her. And my Hopes, as well as my Desires, are, that she will grow up in the divine and amiable Temper of her good Mother.

I trust it will be pleasing to every one of you, as it has been to the Transcriber, that she makes such frequent and honourable Mention of the late Mr. Spillsbury. A Name that cannot be ex-

^{*} *Τα ἑρπον.* Teneri nimirum & adhuc ab uberibus pendentes pueruli. *Vid.* Beza in Luc. xviii. 15.

xiv To the near Relations, &c.

ried in Oblivion, while the present and some future Generations remain. A Name that should be had in everlasting Remembrance. It was engraven upon the Heart of good Mrs. Hoofman, and there remained in deep and fair Characters, living and dying. His constant and abundant Labours in publick, his Readiness to embrace every Opportunity of doing good in private, his Easiness of Access, his consummate Prudence, his lively Zeal for God and Souls, his Generosity and Charity; as they endeared him to almost every body that knew him while living, so they cause him to be remember'd with the most affectionate Veneration. Your Town indeed has been singularly favoured. You have had the choicest Means afforded you; most excellent Messengers sent among you. You have been lifted up to Heaven in Privileges, and have more to give an account of than any Congregation I know. May your Improvements be answerable to your Manurings. May you grow as the Lilly, and your Beauty be as the Olive-tree, and your Smell as Lebanon. May you be equal in Fruitsfulness to many of those Plants of Righteousness, which some of us remember. Now indeed transplanted to the Paradise above; but when in the Garden of God here below, were an Ornament to their Stations by their eminent Gifts and Graces.

And now by way of Conclusion: As probably I shall never have another Opportunity of addressing myself to you in this manner, indulge me

me so far as to permit me to subjoin my most earnest and friendly Advice, in some Particulars adapted to our dear Friend, and the Providence that has removed her.

1. Think seriously and steadily whether she is gone, and while you mourn for her Removal, rejoice in her Advancement. Bless God, that you may follow her, and many other of your deceased Friends, with a lively Hope. As you love her, rejoice in that she is gone to her Father and Redeemer. Let your Meditations work thus: " My Friend is separated, but not lost, † She hath taken a Journey into a far Country, and there I may go to see her. What matter is it, whether my Friend return to me, or I go to her? None but this, that if she be in a better Place, then it is better that I go to see her, than that she come to see me. Shou'd we not desire to be better ourselves, and not to have her made worse? Let us religiously and contentedly follow as fast as we can, hoping for that World where we shall embrace again. — Let us not then mourn

1. Thess. iv. 13, &c. || Dr. Patrick.

† Why then their Loss deplore, that are not lost? Why wanders wretched Thought their Tombs around

In Infidel Distress? —

They live, they greatly live, a Life on Earth

Unkindled, unconceiv'd, and from an Eye

Of Tenderness let heavenly Pity fall

On us more justly number'd with the Dead

COMPLAINT, N. I.

xvi To the near Relations, &c.

"mourn for that which cannot be, but rejoice in that which will or may be."

2. Let your Faith so follow her to the Upper World, as that you may live more there, and less on Earth. As your believing Views of Christ gone to Glory shou'd especially influence you this way, (Col. iii. 1.) so in some measure shou'd the Removal of every Christian Friend and Relative from your Converse and Embrace. The Society of the Saints shou'd help to smoothe the Ruggedness of this our Pilgrimage, and their Absence from Earth, and their Presence in Heaven, shou'd carry in it something magnetick and attractive. It was a noted Remark that Beza made upon the Death of Calvin his pious and intimate Friend: "I shall love Earth less and Heaven more, now Calvin is removed from the one to the other." If our Improvement in a heavenly Frame may be the Effect of such a Providence, it will be a sweet Fruit growing from a bitter Root.

3. Look more to Eternity, and yourselves as hastening to it. — Consider yourselves as Passengers thro' this World, rather than Dwellers in it. When your Mountain seemeth to stand most firm, look upon yourselves as Borderers upon the Grave, and ready to enter its gloomy Mansions. Many of you are engaged in a Multiplicity of Business*, but O remember that you have Con-

* A Soul immortal spending all its Fires, Wasting her Strength in Stereuous Idleness:

Thrown

cerns to manage infinitely more momentous than those which the World calls most so. Let the Immortality of the Soul be an Article of your practical Creed. Place yourselves frequently as in the cold Arms of Death, bidding a long adieu to all that Nature or Interest calls dear, and entering upon an untried Eternity. If providing for Futurity be esteemed by all sensible Persons a Point of Wisdom, a near and never-ending Futurity claims the first and deepest Concern of each of us.

4. Set before you this and other pious Acquaintance, as so many excellent Paterns for your Imitation. The ancient † Egyptians embalmed the Bodies of their deceased Relations, and thus preserving them from Putrefaction, placed them standing upright in their Sepulchres or Houses; that by often viewing them they might be put in mind of their Virtues in order to a pious Imitation. This is the Reason that I have attempted to embalm this excellent Person, that you might have her in your Houses, view her in her noble Graces, may follow her into her Retirements, might see her in her frequent and intimate Converses with God and her own Heart; may trace her shining Virtues amidst the various

Proof

Thrown into Tumults, raptur'd or alarm'd
At ought this Scene can threaten or indulge,
Resembles Ocean into Tempest wrought,
To waft a Feather or to drown a Fly.

COMPLAINT, lb.

† M. ROLLIN'S Ancient History, Vol. II.

xviiij. To the near Relations, &c.

Providences that attended her, prosperous and adverse, in order to an Assimilation. It is much more easy and common to admire excelling Goodness, than imitate it; but my Pains are all frustrate in this Publication, if you do not grow wiser and better by this Example.

5. Labour to be yourselves equal Examples to others of living and lively Religion. This will be a noble Ambition. The Exemplification of the Religion of Jesus in the sacred Lives of its Professors, would be one of the best Methods of defending it against Gainsayers. Many have wrote excellently on its Behalf: I would to God more would live up strictly to the Requirements of the Gospel. This would be a Method of defending Christianity exceeding, I am persuaded, all the rest. In the Humility, Meekness, Peaceableness, Simplicity, Heavenly-mindedness, Self-Denial of true Christians, there are what one of the Ancients calls * unanswerable, unconfutable Syllogisms for Christ and his Religion. Let such living Arguments be used by you continually. Not that I am persuading you to act an hypocritical Part by making a fair shew in the Flesh; but from the various Graces of the divine Life in Exercise, shew by a good Conversation the Praises of God. Every genuine Christian may this way be silently persuasive to that which is good, † and while moving in a private, narrow Sphere, may be extensively useful.

6. From

* Συλλογισμὸς ἀναπρεπτός.

† 1 Pet. iii. 1.

6. From the whole of her Life and Death, learn to improve a Season of Ease and Health. She did, as every wise Person will, lay up a Stock against a spending Time ||. When all the Powers of Nature were vigorous, when she had the Opportunity of frequent Retirements, she exerted herself in the most lively Manner. Then in the most calm and sedate, the most solemn and impartial way she examined her own Heart, and having again and again found the Symptoms of Sincerity, she placed them upon Record for her Establishment and Consolation. I am persuaded it was this Method (under the sealing Influences of the Blessed Spirit) that enabled her to bear up under her various Afflictions, and at length to face the last Enemy with so much Fortitude. She knew for many Years in whom she had believed. I would seriously recommend the same Ardor, and as much as may be the same Method. O don't put off what is so important, what carries in it the most absolute Necessity to an uncertain Hereafter*. What you expect, may never come, or

|| ————— Metuensque futuri

In Pace, ut Sapiens, aptavit Idonea Bello.

(HOR. SAT. X.)

Procrastination is the Thief of Time,
Year after Year it steals, till all are fled;
And to the Mercies of a Moment leaves
The vast Concerns of an eternal Scene.
If not so frequent, would not this be strange?
That 'tis so frequent, this is stranger still.

COMPLAINT, Ib.

Non

mity and Sin, lest your Lord should come in an Hour you looked not for him. Think with yourselves how little you have done of the Work you had given you to do, and to what you have yet to do. How far short you yet fall of those, who through Faith and Patience inherit the Promises. Watch them therefore in your Eye, be pressing forward towards the Mark. || — I have little else to add, but to assure you and the Publick, that in publishing these Papers I have acted a faithful Part. All the Liberty that I have taken has been in some Places to contract her Stile, where I thought it has been too verbose; but yet in such a manner as to preserve her own Words. So that I don't know that I have put in two Words of my own thro' the whole Transcript. All the Return which I ask for the great Pains I have taken, is your most serious Remembrance, and that of others into whose Hands these Papers come, at the Throne of Grace, that he who hath ministred this Seed to his Sower would be pleas'd to bless the Seed sown, and so increase the Fruits of Righteousness.

I am, my good Friends,

Your very affectionate
and humble Servant,

Warminster.

July 16. 1743.

R. Pearfall.

|| Instat Equis Auriga suos Vincentibus, illum
Præteritum temnens. HOR. Sat. 1.

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AN EXTRACT of the
DIARY
OF

Mrs. H. Housman.

CHAP. I.

Her Method of closing the Week, and preparing for the Sabbath.

APRIL 3. 1711.

THROUGH divine Goodness I am brought near the Close of another Week: I would not close it without making some Reflections.

I find I could run out in Complaints against myself; but I would not overlook the gracious Dealings of God to me. I would humbly hope I have had the Tokens of his Presence with me in Duty: O how reviving hath it been! It is infinite Condescension to have any Regard to so mean and vile a Creature as

B

I am.

I am. None more beholden to free Grace than I; and sometimes methinks I can admire it and feel it constraining. It grieves me that I can make no more Returns. I cannot love Christ as he hath loved me; but yet I would love him as much as ever Creature loved him. I am, I find, never so well pleased with myself, as when I find myself in a gracious loving Frame; and I long to love him perfectly, without Interruption or Intermiſſion.

I can't but be thankful, that I have another Sabbath in View. O! if I know my own Heart, I would fain get Grace by the Means: But I cannot but be jealous of myself, and fear how it will be with me; such sad Experience I have had of a hard, dull, unaffected Heart. Very juſtly may God leave me to myself. Sometimes for my Sins he does hide his Face, that when I come to Duties I cannot have any ſenſible Enjoyment of him; but when it is thus with me, my Conſcience beareth me witness, I am reſtleſs and diſſatisfied; and I hope I find in me a Reſolution ſtill to hold on in the way of Duty, and to hope in his Mercy.

I would fain get nearer to God in the Duties of the approaching Sabbath. Lord, give me a Heart to improve it. The Preparation of the Heart muſt come from thee. Let me receive of the Fulneſs that there is in Chriſt Jeſus, even Grace for Grace, for his ſake. *Amen.*

AUGUST

AUGUST 11. 1711.

This being *Saturday* Evening, I was desirous to close the Day and Week with God. I enter'd my Chamber, and, I hope, with a Desire to enter into my Heart, that I might get some farther Acquaintance with myself, my State in the general, and particularly what it hath been this Week and Day past; and methinks I can't forbear making some Remarks for my future Use. God was abundantly gracious to me. O his infinite Condescension! how amazing is it!

I was enabled to discern something of a Work of Grace begun in me, and my Covenant-Interest in God, and to look up to him, and to lay claim to him as *my God*; and could tell Satan to his Face with abundance of Boldness, *I am none of thine; I am the Lord's, his Covenant Servant; his entirely, unreservedly, chearfully, resolvedly, and eternally*; and could rejoice in the Security of my State. Methought it was as if Satan stood by me; but I told him, none should ever pluck me out of my dear and mighty Redeemer's Hand. O! how I triumph over the grand Enemy of my Soul, and rejoice in my great Redeemer! —I find, I cannot express what Impressions were made upon me.

As I sate upon the Side of the Bed, I threw myself upon the Bed, and was supposing my-

self upon a dying Bed; and I could entertain the Thoughts of Death with some Delight. Surely it look'd with a pleasant Aspect. O how *nothing* did the World appear to me? I could scorn it all in Comparison of Christ Jesus my Lord. Nothing in it look'd pleasant but the *Sabbath* I had in view, wherein I hope for some farther Converse with my Lord. O how did I long to begin an everlasting *Sabbath*? The dearest Enjoyments, the nearest Relations, when in such a Frame, methinks, are easily parted with. O then how could I admire the free, rich, distinguishing Grace of God to me, and cry out, *Why me, Lord, why me, and pass by thousands?* O! astonishing Grace! And that he should give me the comfortable Sense of it! O! none more unworthy, none more vile! But free Grace would have it so. And if God will work, who shall hinder?

As I thus lay upon my Bed, I think near an Hour, I could not but please myself, what if Death were near at hand! O methought I could have welcom'd its Approach; nay, I could long to be with my Lord. And yet I was, I think, desirous to be truly resigned to the whole Will of God; desiring that he would fulfil his own good Pleasure in me and upon me, both as to Duty and Suffering.

O my Soul, what Return wilt thou make for this renewed Favour, this fresh Experience of the divine Presence with thee? O Lord,
how

how is it, that thou shouldst manifest thyself thus to me, and not unto the World? Even so, Father, because it seemeth good in thy Sight. May it engage me to more humble, close walking. O let me not be so ungrateful as I have been under such Enjoyments! Blessed be God for the Mercies of this Day.

SEPTEMBER 16. 1711.

I am now brought to the End of another Week. I have been reviewing the Days past, and find that the Mercies I have receiv'd have been many and great, and so have been my Sins, greatly aggravated and multiplied.

I have been this Evening desirous to present my Soul and Body a living Sacrifice to God, hoping he will graciously accept me in and through the great Sacrifice, the Lord my Righteousness. Upon the most serious Enquiry into the State of my Soul, I see ground to hope, that there is something of a real Change wrought upon me; yet it is but in Part. By sad and daily Experience I find Sin dwells in me; and, blessed be God, I find something that opposeth it; so that all doth not go one way. O that I could find the Power of Sin weakned, and Grace strengthened. This I beg for, this I hope for; and earnestly desire that I might improve the approaching *Sabbath* for this end; to bring me nearer to God, and set me at a farther Distance from Sin and this World. I rejoice,

Lord, in the Prospect of thy Day. O prepare me for it. May I meet with thee! It hath been my Desire this Evening to descend into the Valley of real and deep Humiliation. O may I in the Morning of thy Day get up into the Mount of Meditation!

OCTOBER 6. 1711.

Through Divine Goodness I am not only spared to the End of another Day and Week, but have enjoyed the Comforts of Life, yea, the Tokens of the Presence of God. At least sometimes: Particularly this Evening. O boundless Love!

I have been much pleased with the Forethought of the approaching *Sabbath*. Blessed be God for the Return of those Days of the Son of Man! I hope I can call the *Sabbath* my Delight. O may I begin thy Day with thee, O Lord. I would get up early, and walk closely with thee, and enjoy much of thy Presence throughout the Day. Lord, come in with thy abundant Grace. Smile upon me in the Face of Jesus Christ. O may I be brought to more near Acquaintance with Jesus my Lord! I have been enabled to seek him this Evening, and I trust to give up myself to him entirely; and he hath graciously revealed himself to me, and made me to rejoice in his Presence. O how great is his Goodness! What shall I render?

MARCH

MARCH 8. 1728.

The *Sabbath* is near. I would rejoice in the Return of it. The last *Sabbath* I was confined to my own House. Blessed be God, I have Hope I shall have the Liberty of going to the House of God to-morrow. O that it may not be a Prize put into the Hand of a Fool, that hath no Heart to improve it; and that my late Confinement may be sanctified to the Enlargement of my Soul in thy Service.

Nov. 20. 1730. *Saturday Evening 7 o'Clock.*

I am brought thus far thro' another Week. I find much Occasion for Thankfulness, not only that the great God hath continued the usual Course of his Providence, but for some special Favours. O may I record the Loving-kindness of the Lord with all suitable Love and Devotion. I have still reason to complain; but have cause to bless God, that things are no worse with me than they are. In the main this hath been a comfortable Week. I have not been wholly left to myself: Not left to fall into great Sin, nor great Suffering. I hope I have not lost all my Time, nor quite neglected my Duty to God or Man. I hope I may say I have had some Hours of comfortable Converse with God.

To-morrow is the *Sabbath*. May every one be a Foretaste of my everlasting one; as

one of the Days of Heaven to me. Lord, make me glad with thy Countenance; and after a few Days Attendance in thy outer Courts, may I be admitted within the Veil, and make my Ascriptions, with the rest of the Saints, to him that sits upon the Throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.

I have known the Time, when I us'd to rejoice upon my having a *Sabbath* in View. Upon *Saturday* Night I could, as it were, take Leave of the World; could meet and welcome the *Sabbath* with a sort of Gladness and Triumph; and was us'd to part with it, and return to the World on *Monday* Morning with a sort of Reluctance. I could and did esteem a Day in God's Courts better than a thousand elsewhere, and had a Pleasure in the Review when the Solemnities were over. I could then call the Service of God my Delight, and when engaged in it was most in my Element. How strongly and sweetly did the Bias of my Soul work towards God and Religion? I could then from my own Experience say, As a Bird in the Air, as the Fish in the Water is in its Element, so is my Soul when with its God. O that it were with me as in Months past! Tune this dull Heart for thy Service. By some special Manifestations of thyself to my Soul, and gracious Assistances, endear thy Day and the Work of it to my Soul.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Her Frame and Reflections after Sabbaths.

JULY 22. 1711.

I That have trifled away so many *Sabbaths*, have been entrusted with another. In the Morning when I awaked, I hope I was truly thankful for the Return of the *Sabbath*; and I was desirous to improve the Prize put into my Hands, and made it my Errand at the Throne of Grace for his assisting and accepting Presence. After I had read some Part of God's Word, I set myself to get a few serious Thoughts; and they were led first to take a View of my present State, and in what Relation I stood to God. I was enabled to discern the Footsteps of the Spirit upon my Heart, and that its real Workings were after God and universal Holiness. Methinks I could most feelingly say, *Whom have I in Heaven but thee! and there is none upon Earth that I desire like thee.*

When I came to attend upon God in publick Ordinances, I cannot say I was without some serious Desires and Affections in my first engaging. Mr. *Spilsbury* preached: the Word came in a most lively, convincing manner to me; it reached my very Case. But in my Return home, I felt deeper Touches. Such Impressions it made, that I could scarce con-

tain myself from the Observation of others. I made all the haste I could to retire, that I might give myself Liberty; and I think I never had more sensible Impressions made upon me. O what was it! Mr. *Spilbury* preached from *Rev. iii. 3. Remember how thou hast heard.* I begged these Impressions might not wear off as others had done. It cost me some Tears. Lord, leave me not to my dark, dead, confus'd, stupid, senseless, hypocritical self; but give me some fresh Strength, and let me be under the Effusions of thy Spirit, even the Spirit of Light, Life, and Love.

AUGUST 5. 1711.

I have been entrusted with another *Sabbath*. I cannot but hope, that the Manner of God's Dealings with me of late, as well as this Day, is in Mercy. I have not such frequent Discoveries of his Love made to my Soul, as in Months past; yet I would humbly hope the Lord is bringing me nearer to himself, by giving me some farther Acquaintance with myself. I see that I have no Righteousness of my own, nor Strength; I would therefore take hold of another, and say, *In the Lord have I Righteousness and Strength.* Lord, bring me to an entire Dependance on Christ for Justification; and upon the Spirit would I rely for Sanctification. Methinks I am loth to return to a vain, cooling, tempting,

ing, distracting World. But, Lord, take me by the Hand and lead me in the way I should go. Let me never depart from thee. May I still be progressive, till at last I shall come to keep an everlasting *Sabbath* with thyself above; for which I would be looking and longing, yet patiently waiting.

AUGUST 12.

This Morning I awaked pretty early. This I could not but be pleas'd with, and thankful for. I renewed the Experience I had the last Evening of the Presence of God. I hope my Mind was in somewhat a serious and humble Frame. I went to Prayer, to seek the Presence of God in the secret Duties I was engaging in. Particularly to be directed and assisted in the Duty of Meditation. But how did my Ignorance appear, how weak was my Faith, how cool my Love! I spent about an Hour in the Work; but I cannot say my Thoughts were engaged and suitably affected.

As to my Frame in publick Duties, it was bad enough; but yet I hope I was not wholly stupid. The Word came to my Case. It convinced me of my Unprofitableness under the precious Seasons I have enjoyed. I was filled with some present Shame; but dare not resolve it shall be better in my own Strength. I would beg the Word may be sanctified, the Directions given complied with, and truly and duly practised. Lord, write thy Word upon my Heart,

Heart, and help me to treasure it up, that I may not sin against thee. I am a poor, unprofitable Creature, but yet I hope I can call the *Sabbath* my Delight; and many times I am grudging that its Moments pass too swiftly on. O I would long for the Dawning of the eternal *Sabbath*. Come, Lord, bring me where I shall see thee clearly, and love thee perfectly, and enjoy thee fully, without Interruption and Intermission to all Eternity.

SEPTEMBER 24.

When I awoke this Morning, I endeavoured to be thankful for the Return of the *Sabbath*. But O how lifeless was I! I went to the Throne of Grace, and thro' Grace I can say I had a gracious Answer. I read some Part of God's Word, and thro' his Blessing it proved very quickening. I then attempted the Work of Self-Examination; made use of some Marks Mr. *Spilbury* gave of *true Faith*, and hope I was enabled to see something of the Spirit's Work upon my Heart. Blessed be his Name! O that he would carry on the Work of Faith by his Almighty Power. I could not get my Heart so spiritual and fixed, as to engage in solemn Meditation; but in Prayer, I freely own, I had an humbling Sight of my own Vileness, was made to mourn in the Sense of indwelling Sin, and my Desires were drawn out after more Grace,
and

and Strength to carry me on in the way of Duty.

This Day I have been press'd to hold fast what I have received by the Mouth of God's faithful Ambassador Mr. *Spilbury*. Surely the Spirit of God is with him of a Truth, in directing him to pitch upon such suitable Subjects! He is faithful in discharging his Duty, and telling me mine. The Lord reward him a thousand-fold into his own Bosom, for all his Labour of Love among us. I hope I can find his close Dealing doth endear him to me the more.

Upon the most serious Reflection on this Day's Experience, I can't but hope I have had the Presence of God with me, and have been made to say this Evening, *the Ways of God are Ways of Pleasantness, and Paths of Peace.*

I have been this Evening desirous to close the Day with God, and to put myself under his Protection. Blessed be God for *Sabbaths* and Gospel Ministers. These are dear to me. These are the Conduit to convey Grace to my Heart. May I by the Streams be led to the Fountain, and be brought to have my entire Dependance on Jesus Christ.

Methinks, I am loth to go down into this tempting World; but whilst I am here, it is my Duty to be concerned with it. I would have no more to do with it, than what is my Duty. Lord, keep me from the Evil of the
World.

World. I would be daily leaving it in my Thought and Affections, and ascending after my glorified Lord.

SEPTEMBER 30.

This is the last Day of the Month, and the first of the Week. I hope I have begun the Day and Week with God, in the sincere tho' weak Performance of Duty; and God hath not been wanting in his renewed Acts of Kindness towards me. But O how short are *Sabbath-days*? how soon are the precious Moments numbred?

God made me to taste this Day a real Sweetness in his Service. I sat under his Shadow with Delight, and his Word was sweet to my Taste. They were experienced Truths that I heard, *viz.* That there is a Possibility for Christians to backslide for a time, but not totally; that they shall recover Strength, and go on more vigorously afterwards; and that a Christian hath much Work to do in this World. This also I find, for this Heart of mine will not let me be idle, not one Day. I am ready to say many times, O! if every Day were a *Sabbath*, then I should be well.

OCTOBER 14.

I have been entrusted with another *Sabbath*. Upon a Reflection I can't but hope I have had the Presence of God, and Assistance
from

from God, to enable me to be sincere in the main, somewhat serious and engaged, and at some times at least enlarged. Blessed be God for something; when I deserve nothing but to be banished his Presence, and cast off for ever. In setting out this Morning, I was under Indisposition of Body; but, thro' abundant Goodness, not wholly incapacitated for Duty, tho' it made me go on with Difficulty.

As to my Attendance upon God in publick Ordinances, of late I observed this that looks like a Token for good, that when I have come to engage first, God is pleased to give me some serious, awful Thoughts of the Presence I am in, and the Work I am going about, and fills me with some humbling Sense of my Unworthiness and Unprofitableness under former Mercies. This makes me admire at abundant Goodness, that gives me another Prize. This, I find, excites my Desires after better Improvement. This Day I have been exhorted again to hold fast. I bless God I was somewhat affected under the Word. It was preached in a most holy and close Manner. Sure we have one of the most able and faithful Ministers at this Day. O that he may meet with more Success! How unweariedly doth he go on! and how earnest has he been this Day!

When I came home from the Publick, and retir'd, I could not but be under real Concern, lest this Word should not reach the
Heart

Heart of those most nearly concerned. I found my Affections much moved with Desire after the Success of the Gospel. The Sluggishness of Professors does grieve me; and I should more complain of it, were I not very guilty myself.

In my Address at the Throne of Grace in secret the middle Part of the Day, I found my Desires most enlarged in seeking for the Advancement of God's Glory, and the Interest of poor Souls, especially those I am most nearly concerned with and for. Methought I was willing to be, do, or suffer any thing to promote the Welfare of perishing Souls.

Blessed be God for this *Sabbath*. Forgive, dear Father, the Sins of the Day. Dear Saviour, cloath me with thy Righteousness; I dare not appear in my own. When I have done all, I am an unprofitable Servant; I would therefore fly to Christ, and see myself compleat in him. Blessed God, I would this Evening devote myself afresh to thee. I would make thy Work more my Business than ever; would walk more circumspectly and closely. I would know thee more, that I may love thee better.

NOVEMBER 19.

Another *Sabbath* I am come to the Close of. Thro' Grace I can call this my dear Delight. When I have a Sabbath in View, my Heart will, as it were, leap for Joy. I am
some-

sometimes saying to myself on *Saturday Evenings*, "O my Soul, what wouldst thou now take for the Enjoyment of the approaching Day?" and my Heart readily answers, "Not a thousand Pounds, not any thing in the World." And when I come to the End of the Day, I would be glad to begin another. Blessed are they who are above! O when shall I join them!

I hope I was enabled to set out in the Morning in some measure of Sincerity with God. I attempted the great Duty of Meditation; but what did I in it? I endeavoured to realize the Presence of God, and acquaint myself with him. I would know more of him, what he is in himself, and what a God he hath been to me; but, to my shame, I must confess my Conceptions were so low, my Apprehensions were so weak and confused, I could not but fear I sinned, and did but disparage his matchless Beauty and glorious Excellencies. O the horrid Darkness of my Understanding! What a Distance hath Sin set me from God? If to know God be eternal Life, then to be destitute of the Knowledge of him is eternal Death. O the sad Effects of the Fall of Man, to lose the Knowledge of God! This dismal Effect I know by woful Experience. O how blessed are the Saints above, who are come to the full Vision of God! who see him Face to Face, and have a transforming Sight of him. This is
the

the Felicity I would be longing and waiting for. This is my Encouragement when groaning under a Sense of my Ignorance, that God hath promised in his Word, *Ye shall know, if ye follow on to know the Lord.* Well, I would resolve in the Strength of Grace; I will wait, and pray, and look, and breathe, and pant after God.

As to Publick Ordinances, I bless his holy Name, my Frame was somewhat serious and comfortable. I heard what true Repentance is, and would humbly hope I find it in some degree of Sincerity. Blessed be God for the Description, and for any Experience begun in my Soul. I would be much in the Work; I find daily Cause to renew it. I would be ashamed of, and humbled for my natural Corruption and Pollution; the Obduracy of my Heart; my Hypocrisy, Unbelief, Lukewarmness in Religion. O my Pride of Heart and Life! My Passion, Worldliness, slighting of Gospel-Ordinances, my Backwardness to good Works, want of Zeal for God's Glory, and Unpreparedness for Afflictions and Death! O may I see Sin as indeed it is, exceeding sinful: May I not only be deliver'd from the Guilt that binds over to Punishment, but from the Power and Pollution of Sin too. I would have no more to do with this accursed thing, so contrary and abominable to a holy God. I would be any thing rather than an unholy Soul. I see I am
a sinful

a sinful Soul ; but I hope thro' Grace a Sin-
sick Soul. Where should I go then but to
the Physician of Souls, Jesus Christ.

AUGUST 28. 1715.

I have, thro' the abundant Goodness of
God, not only enjoyed another *Sabbath*, and
the Liberty of his House, but I hope the To-
kens of his Presence with me : I have this
Day, I humbly hope, been under the Draw-
ings of his Spirit ; have had some real Dis-
cernings of his glorious Excellencies and in-
finite Perfections. I have had my Love to
and Longings after him somewhat warmly
drawn out. I hope Grace hath been in live-
ly Exercise. Blessed be God, that thus deals
with me. He gives me Encouragement to
hope in him ; nay, enables me to rejoice in
him. What can I do less, since I can dis-
cern my Interest in him, and can say, *My
Lord, and my God.*

CHAP. III.

Her Preparation for the Lord's Supper.

JANUARY 30. 1728.

HAPPY Souls, that in time know the
Worth of Time. Time is the only
Opportunity we have to provide for an ever-
lasting State. O now may I be living at
another rate ! I have great Work to do, par-
ticularly

ticularly at this Time. I have a Covenanting-Season in View. Now I would be laying aside every Weight, and those Sins which most easily beset me, that I may engage heartily in Preparation Work. It is Heart-Work! Bodily Exercise profiteth little. I know the Preparation of the Heart is of the Lord; I will go to him who is the Heart-maker and the Heart-searcher, and seek for Grace and Assistance. Lord, hast thou not said in thy Word, *Go boldly to the Throne of Grace, that ye may find Mercy and Grace to help in time of Need.* Blessed be God for this gracious Word of Encouragement, in which thou hast caused thy Servant to hope. Surely it is good to draw nigh to God, resolved to hold on this way of Duty, and still hope in his Mercy. Blessed are all they that wait for him.

APRIL 4. 1729.

I have now great Work upon my Hand, Covenant-Work. God is calling upon me. *Up, sanctify yourself against to morrow, for upon the third Day I will do wonders amongst you.* Great Work indeed, to get this unsanctified Heart prepared for the Solemnity before it comes. Great Cause I have for Shame and deep Humiliation, in a Sense of my Breach of Covenant, and Unpreparedness for the solemn Work. Blessed be God, we are not under the Law, but under Grace,
a Cove-

a Covenant of Grace; in all things well order'd and sure. I rejoice in the Grace in which I stand; I will endeavour to make sure my Covenant-Interest in God, and then I am safe for ever. O Lord, I am and will be thine.

APRIL 29.

This Day was our Preparation for the Lord's Supper. I have been hearing of Christ Jesus, what a Gift he is to those who are his People, a *free Gift, valuable, full and comprehensive.* He is a Gift of *Love, Suitable, Seasonable, Satisfying, and a Lasting one.* Then we were put upon enquiring, whether we had received this Gift; those that have, have been made sensible of the Need of Christ. They have seen the Fulness and Excellency of him, and have been made to desire him, and been willing to receive him upon Gospel Terms. Such that have Christ, have the Spirit of Christ, a Spirit of Holiness, and a Spirit of Prayer. Such that have Christ, are of the same Mind that Christ was. And such as have Christ, have earnest Desires after more Enjoyment of Christ here, and are longing after the full Enjoyment of him in Glory.

Upon the hearing and mature Deliberation hereof, I have good Ground to hope I have experienced this in my Soul. But I have great Cause to lament and be ashamed that I make
no

no more Progress, that I am still but a Babe, a Dwarf in Grace. O my want of Life, Growth, and Activity in Holiness!

C H A P. IV.

Her Return from the Table of the Lord.

APRIL 2. 1710.

THis hath been a Sacrament Day. I would take notice of and record for my future Encouragement, the Experiences I have had this Day of God's answering my poor Prayers. The Lord made me earnest with him for his Presence, and this Day I have found him abundantly assisting me in Duties, and refreshing me with his Presence. O what did I enjoy at the Throne of Grace and in Meditation! How sweet is it to come Hungring and Thirsting! Such Souls shall be abundantly satisfied.

Have not I Cause to say, this hath been a good Day to my Soul? Every Part of it, every Duty hath afforded me great Delight. O how good is it to wait upon the Lord! What did I enjoy in hearing the Word, and at the Table of my Lord? Did not I feel Faith and Love, Hope and Joy, and Repentance, a little in Exercise? I did, I humbly hope. O may I find it more so. Did not my Desires go out most ardently after Christ? Did I not open my Heart to receive him; and did I not find him? The very Mercies of this Day are enough to engage me to love God for ever.

None

None but those who have tried it, can know the Delights that attend serious Godliness. I could not but be loth to leave the Ordinances and come down. What revived me most, was, that I should not leave my Lord behind me; but take him along with me. O may I keep close to him!

JUNE 4. 1710.

This hath been a Sacrament-Sabbath; and upon the most serious, impartial Review, I must own it hath been thro' free, rich Grace a good Day to me. I hope I had the Presence of God in Meditation and Prayer; in Publick while hearing the Word; and then at his Table I cannot but hope and believe I had it; enabling me a little to act Faith, to discern Christ Jesus, lay hold upon and embrace him as my Lord, and to give up myself heartily, unreservedly, resolvedly and delightfully to be his; his entirely, only, and for ever. And tho' I was not raised into Raptures, yet I have enjoyed true, real Comforts. He hath given me Peace in believing. And this Evening I have had abundance of Comfort in the Reflection on this Day's Transactions and Enjoyments. And to make up the Day, and compleat and confirm it to me, God hath graciously helped me in Meditation. O my Soul, what hast thou tasted? The assuring Discoveries of God's Love to thee; enabling me to triumph in my Interest in him, to lay claim to the Promises, and apply them. "*There is no condemnation*

nation to them which are in Christ Jesus." "I am persuaded that neither Life nor Death—shall separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord." "None shall pluck them out of my hand." So that now I can say thro' Grace with a humble Boldness, "Come Life, come Death, come what will, I have heartily chosen the Lord to be my Portion, and he shall be my all both here and for ever."

H. PEARSAL,

JULY 1. 1711.

This is the Close of a Sacrament Day. O blessed Day of the Son of Man; tho' I am forced to end it with Complaints as to myself. Alas, I am a poor, vain, unprofitable Creature. I may wonder I am entrusted with such another Season of Grace, that have abused so many by my wretched, dull, careless, trifling Attendance on them. O my Soul, what hast thou been doing this Day! how has my Heart been engaged! I hope I can discern my Sincerity in what I have been doing; but alas, my Frame was far short of what it should be, and what I hope I desired it might be. In my Approach to the Lord's Table, my Thoughts were somewhat fixed, and I hope I was enabled to act Faith a little; but alas it was very weak. I have been renewing my Resolutions, how closely I will walk with God, how diligent I will be in his Service, how watchful over my own Heart, against Satan,

Satan, Sin and the World. The Lord grant I may not deceive myself by making them in my own Strength, which I know is but Weakness. I come to thee, Lord; on thee would I rely. *I am thine, Lord, save me.* O save me from my poor, dark, dead, deceitful Heart. O take me out of my own Hands into thy own; then I shall be safe.

MAY 3. 1713.

This hath been a Sacrament-Sabbath. In the Morning when I first awoke, I found my Heart under great Disorders; dead and dull, unfit for so solemn Work as I had before me. I was conscious of unanswerable Walking since the last time of my renewing my Covenant at the Lord's Table. This filled me with Shame, and I hope I had somewhat of a penitent Frame. Blessed be God, I was not left wholly stupid; this is what I have deserved, and this is what I dread above all Affliction and Judgments in the World.

God hath appeared graciously this Day, in sending his Minister with so seasonable a Word; a Word which proved useful to bring former Experiences to my Mind. The Subject was *Peace*, that Peace which Christ purchased and left with his People, and which his Spirit works in the Hearts of Believers; and this as described, I humbly hope I have experienced. The Sweetness of the Word encouraged me in my farther and nearer Ap-

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proaches.

proaches. Tho' I was under Discouragement in myself, yet the serious Consideration, what a God I had to do with, his unchangeable Nature, the Stability of the Covenant of Grace, the perfect and compleat Righteousness of Jesus, the Fulness of his Merits, the Constancy and Prevalence of his Intercession, emboldned me in going to the Table of the Lord.

As to my Attendance there, I cannot acquit myself of vain Thoughts and great Disorders; but yet I would humbly hope I had some Assistance given in. God was pleased to appear in a very kind and condescending Manner to me; I was, I hope, enabled to take Christ, and all the Benefits purchased by his Death I could apply to my own Soul as mine. I could say with a humble Boldness, he loved *me* and washed *me* from my Sins in his own Blood. Who knows how sweet this was! This fresh Experience filled me with Admiration, Love and Praise. I must needs say, God was better to me this Day than my Expectations. In the Morning I was ready to fear it would prove a lost Day. I was sensible I deserved his Frowns. I was resolving, Let God deal with me how he would, I would still justify him; but he surprized me with his Goodness. What shall I render? I could not but be taking up fresh Purposes of more holy, close walking. Lord, help me to live up to my Covenant-Engagements.

MARCH

MARCH 4. 1722.

Thro' the abundant Goodness of God, I have had Liberty to sit down at his Table; a Favour I was prevented enjoying the last Sacramental Season; thro' Indispositions of Body, I was kept a Prisoner at Home: Blessed be God this Day I have been enlarged; O that I could say I was so in my Soul. God has been threatning us by the Indisposition of our Pastor, that we should have been denied this Ordinance of his Supper; but he has been better than our Fears as well as our Deserts. O my Soul, what hath thy Frame been! with Lamentations I must confess, not so serious, so composed, so enlarged, as it ought to have been; for this I desire to be humbled: But I humbly hope there have been some serious Desires and Affections working in me; I sat under his Shadow with great Delight. My Desires were after Christ, and more of Christ; more Holiness, more Enjoyment of him, and Communion with him, and Conformity to him. To be the Lord's, I hope, is the fixed Purpose of my Soul, and by thy Grace I will never go back. Lord, I have given up my Heart, my All; I account this my greatest Felicity. Do with me as best pleaseth thee. Use me as an Instrument some way or other to carry on thy Work and Interest. O let me be any thing or nothing, so God may be glorified. I

would have my secular Affairs, my private Interest stoop to the Interest of a dear Redeemer.

O dear God and Father, forgive the Sins of this Day for thy dear Son's sake, thro' whom I hope. With full Purpose of Heart I would cleave to the Lord, and still be going on from Duty to Duty, from one Degree of Grace to another, till I come to my Lord in Glory. Oh! there it will be well, and not till then! This is what I wait, long, and would be preparing for. Blessed be God for a comfortable Hope! Blessed be God for Jesus Christ!

AUGUST 3. 1729.

Thro' the great Goodness of God I have enjoyed another *Sabbath*, and this hath been a Sacrament-Sabbath. I have cause to be humbled in a Sense of my undue Approach to solemn Ordinances; yet tho' most unworthy, I have hope thro' the Worthiness and Merits of my dear Redeemer. I have been assisted and accepted. Blessed be God, I enjoyed more Composedness of Mind than many times. I hope I have had some spiritual Discerning of Christ Jesus, and have by Faith received him upon Gospel Terms, and been enabled to devote myself, my all, entirely to his Love, Service and Glory. I would henceforth live to his Praise.

JANU-

JANUARY 3. 1731.

I have this Day been renewing my Covenant, and I trust I am united in the Bonds of an everlasting Covenant. I have often been enquiring into the Sincerity of my Love to the Lord Jesus ; been making the Supposition, that I should be called to forsake all, and suffer for his Name sake. It's true, Husband is near, and my dear Child lies near me. But, O my Soul, I have I hope sat down and counted the Cost, and do find upon mature Deliberation ; if I should part with Husband, Child, the dearest Relations, there is enough in Christ to make up the Loss of all ; but there is nothing in all the World can make up the Loss of Christ Jesus, whom I love, I trust, above Life itself. I know I can of myself do nothing ; should God withdraw and leave me, I should soon dishonour him and desert his Service ; but I trust I have better Strength engaged for me ; his Promise is, *My Grace is sufficient for thee.* This I would plead, upon this I would rely in every Time of need. May my Faith be of the right kind, that Faith which unites the Soul to Christ the living Head, and I am assured he will not suffer the least of his Members to perish.

O my Soul, resolve to improve the Time that is yet allotted thee, in keeping up Communion with God, and by fresh Acts of Faith

upon Christ's Fulness of Grace, derive from him all thou wantest, to glorify God by doing and suffering Work. This is the Purpose of my Heart. O thou Searcher of Thoughts, leave me not to my poor, deceitful, hypocritical self. Let thy Strength be glorified in my Weakness. O perfect what thou hast begun in me. I trust, I shall be kept by thy mighty Power thro' Faith unto Salvation.

CHAP. V.

Her Acknowledgment of God in important Affairs.

DECEMBER 12. 1715.

THE Providence of God seems to be calling me to the Alteration of my Condition in the World. Upon the Prospect of this great Change I have in View, I can't but be full of Thought and Concern how I shall be duly prepared for it; that so I might fill up the Place and Relation the Providence of God is now disposing me to, with Duty and Usefulness. When I consider, a new Relation brings new Duties, new Trials and Difficulties with it, yea and new Temptations too, I can't but be under (at least sometimes) great Fears how it will be with me.

I am conscious to myself I have been very much wanting in my Duty in single Life; how little have I answer'd the many Favours conferr'd

conferr'd upon me? I would lie low before God in the Sense of my Sin and Folly.

I have oft spread the Case before God; begging he would chuse the Person *who*, the Time *when*, the Manner *how*, the Place *where*. I have been encouraged by those that are serious and judicious, to incline to this as the Direction of Providence. I would with all Humility accept the divine Disposals, believing his *disposing Will* ought to be regarded as his *commanding Will*, and doth as firmly constitute my Duty. I bless God, it is not any thing in the World I am aiming at and pleasing myself with, more than what looks like the gracious Dealings of God towards me. No, I am really afraid of the World, of having much to do with it in my Passage thro' it. As my Day is, so let my Strength be. O! make good thy Word unto thy Servant who is devoted to thy Fear. I have been often saying, *If thou go not with me, carry me not hence*; and dost thou say, *Certainly I will be with thee*? It is enough, I desire no more.

I am now setting out in the World, and what we call *settling*; but still I look upon myself and all my Concerns, Relations and Enjoyments immediately uncertain. How soon I may be called out of the World, God only knows; I stand upon the Brink of an awful Eternity. I bless God I can think of Death with Comfort. The Thoughts of it are not terrifying, but oft pleasing. I can

rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God. It is very refreshing to me sometimes in the midst of the Hurries and Diversions of this Life, to think the Time is coming, when I shall be perfectly delivered from all these Clogs, and come to better Enjoyments, and more real and satisfying Pleasures. But yet I can't but fear, lest the Love of the World should prevail in me, and things of Time and Sense interrupt me in my Christian Course, and abate my Desires, take off the Edge of my Affections to the things of God and another World. Therefore it will be my highest Wisdom and indispensable Duty, to be much in Prayer and constant Watchfulness. These are Duties never out of Season, but upon some Occasions of more absolute Necessity; and such a Time I look upon this. Lord, help me to be faithful to the Interest of my precious and immortal Soul.

When I consider how much Duty will lie upon me, I am ready to say, *Who is sufficient for these Things?* But, Lord, hast thou not said (O speak it home to my Soul in a special Manner at this Time for my Support) *Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee, &c.* Lord, it is enough. Lord, I believe, help thou my Unbelief. Hast thou spoken, and wilt thou not make it good? Strengthen, O God, my weakest Faith. Faith in God's Promises

Promises is an excellent Preservative against Fainting in a time of Trial.

I have Hopes the Person I am likely to unite with, is one truly fearing God, and united to him in the Bonds of the everlasting Covenant. O that we may prove great Blessings to one another, and mutual Helps to one another's Faith and Holiness, and go Hand in Hand in the Ways of God; praying with and for each other alike; watching over one another, exhorting, cautioning, reproving, as there is Occasion. Yea, be Examples of Holiness, Meekness, and a becoming Conversation. Also bearing one another's Burthens, and be kindly affectioned one to another, as is our Duty, and as becometh Christians. And if we are faithful in our Duty to God and one another, may we not expect the Blessing of God with us? It is this that maketh rich, and adds no Sorrow with it. May we eye God in all that befalls us. If he prosper us in the World, may we be humbly thankful, and look upon all as Talents, which we must be accountable for, and endeavour to lay out for him. And if he should see meet to exercise us with Losses, may we learn to bear all with becoming Patience and Submission to the Will of God, and learn Obedience by the things we suffer. But it is Time to remove my Pen. To all I have here expressed, I set my Hand,

H. PEARSALL.

OCTOBER 2. 1716.

I have of late by the Providences and Word of God been frequently put in mind of Death; and the present Circumstances I am brought into will lead me into the Valley of the Shadow of Death. It is now but a few Weeks before those Difficulties will unavoidably overtake me, that *will* be great, and *may* end in Death. How sharp or how long they may be, I know not. But this I am assured of, I shall need more Strength than my own to grapple with them, and much Grace to enable me to behave under them. I desire to be much in Prayer, and spread my Case before the Lord for Grace to help me in this Time of Need.

To some it proves a dying Time; it may be so to me; and this hath sometimes at least put me upon the Enquiry how go Matters betwixt God and my Soul! I know it is a serious and awful Thing to die; but yet I bless God, upon my most serious Thoughts of it, it hath not look'd terrible. No, as to myself it looks rather comfortable and desirable to depart and be with Christ. Tho' I have as affectionate a Yoke-fellow as any, yet all I have and all that the World can afford me, is not sufficient to make me happy. This World is not a Portion for an immortal Soul. I hope I have chosen Heaven for my Inheritance, and there I long to be. I bless
God

God I am not afraid so much of *Death* as *dying*.

If it shall please God to give me a living Child, I would with all Humility and Thankfulness devote it to him, and resolve, his Grace enabling, to bring it up in the Nurture and Fear of God, and beg it may be sanctified from the Womb.

H. HOUSMAN.

MARCH 8. 1724.

The Providence of God hath once more brought me into a Child-bearing Condition. This is, I must own, almost beyond my Expectations, and I believe the Expectations of my Friends. But God's Thoughts are not as ours. The infinitely wise and gracious God hath seen meet to give and take our Creature-Comforts, and the last Time prevented our Enjoyment of a living Child; at once disappointed our Hopes, and cut off our Expectations, which was a great Trial to our weak Graces. I would call to mind the Experience I then had of seasonable Supports. I could justify God in all his Proceedings, and was desirous to know wherefore God did thus contend with us; and sometimes was ready to hope he was by that Method bringing me nearer to himself, which his infinite Wisdom saw could not be effected so well any other way; and such Thoughts were very quieting and supporting to me. God's delay-
ing

ing to give me Power to conceive again so long, made me almost give over expecting such a Blessing. I would humbly hope we were brought to a chearful Submission to the divine Disposals. How God will deal with us further is known only to himself; but to get prepared for, and resigned to the Will of God, is our indispensable Duty.

Since I have been in my present Circumstances, I have had greater Disorders than I ever had before in the like State; which hath often caused Fears to arise in my Mind. But, blessed be God! I have been supported, and must set up my *Ebenezer*, and say, *Hitherto the Lord hath helped me*. I know his Power is infinite, and his Compassions fail not. It is all one to him to save in great Difficulties as in small. But my Sins may cause me to fear he should with-hold delivering Mercy. Surely then it doth become me to humble myself, and renew my Repentance for Sin. And here I can't but pray, O that all the Sorrows I either have or may feel, which are the sad Effects of Sin, may increase my Hatred of it, and cause me to depart from it.

I have been afraid of entertaining pleasing Thoughts of a living Child, lest I should meet with a Disappointment again; but have been inclined to fear the worst, that I might be prepared for it. But if it should please God to prevent us with his Goodness, and make me the living Mother of a living Child,
my

my earnest Desire is, to resign it to the Lord, to be his ; and I hope I have been enabled to do it now, even whilst it is in the Womb ; knowing not if ever I shall have Opportunity to do it when it is born ; or, it may not live, as my last did not. It hath, I believe, received an immortal Soul, that must live somewhere for ever, and is at present incapable of acting for itself. The Security of its Interest in the Covenant of Grace, must depend upon the Faithfulness of the Parents.

May I not fear how I shall receive a living Child ? I would receive such a Favour with all Humility and Thankfulness ; and endeavour to watch against inordinate Affections, lest I should provoke God to remove it, or make it a Cross. O that God would give us Supplies of Grace and a Sufficiency !

MARCH 28. 1724.

God hath begun to be gracious ; hath in one respect heard and answer'd our Prayers, in preserving my dear Spouse in his late Journey to *London*. Carried him out in Safety, preserved him and me, when so far distant, and brought him Home in Safety, so that we have had a Meeting to our mutual Pleasure. To God, to God alone, be all the Glory ! Shall we not hence take Encouragement to hope for further Answers to our Prayers ? I am yet in the Expectation of a Time of Difficulty. I would endeavour to keep up
my

my Hope and Trust in God, the God of Salvation, and not give way to unreasonable Dejections; but go on in the way of Duty, hoping in his Mercy; still casting my Care upon God. Let the Lord do what he will with me, I will love him and cleave to him still. Tho' he slay me, yet will I trust in him. Tho' I pass thro' the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no Evil, because the Lord is and will be with me. He hath said (and he will make his own Word of Promise good) *I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.*

I pray I may have Grace in lively Exercise; that so I may not dishonour God, nor grieve my Friends, nor discredit my Profession under my Difficulties.

CHAP. VI.

Her Examinations of Herself.

AUGUST 9. 1711.

THIS hath been a Market-Day and Lecture-Day. I have had an Opportunity of attending in the House of God. I have heard that Christ Jesus is the bright and morning Star. Have been exhorted to come to Christ for Light, the Light of true saving Knowledge and Grace. Yea, I have heard that it is Christ that doth work Peace and Consolation in the Hearts of true Believers; and how we may distinguish between the
Peace

Peace that Hypocrites have sometimes, and that which is wrought in the Souls of true Believers by the Spirit of God.

1. That which is wrought by the Spirit is of longer Continuance; but that which the Hypocrite has, is like a Flash of Lightning, it is gone again presently.

2. The Consolation which the Spirit works, doth humble the Soul, and make it to lie low before the Lord.

3. This true Peace is ordinarily the Effect of much Repentance, Humiliation, earnest Prayer to God, and close Walk with God.

These Trials I have heard, and dare not deny but I find Reason to hope they do, in some measure of Sincerity at least, agree with the Experience of my own Soul; and therefore I would turn them into Evidences, to confirm my Faith and increase my Joy in the Lord. Lord, assist me to evidence the Truth of Grace by the Increase of it. This is what I long after, to be progressive in the Ways of God.

OCTOBER 7. 1711.

I have this Day been highly favoured. I have had the Liberty of God's House, and sure the Help of the most serious, faithful, judicious, plain, close Minister, dear, dear Mr. *Spilbury*, that ever People had. He hath been to Day upon a Use of Examination, Whether we are likely to hold fast and hold

hold out. I would here remark something of the Particulars, that hereafter I may have recourse to them.

1. If we are those that find in ourselves real Desires, and those increasing in us, after Christ Jesus.

2. When we can find our Love to and Delight in Gospel Ordinances increasing.

3. If we find our Love, Desires and Affections decreasing towards the World; that we are more indifferent to the World, and that we go on in the Work of Self-denial.

4. When a Person doth increase in a Sense of his own Weakness and Insufficiency to stand of himself.

5. When the Failings of other Professors do not incline us to censure them, but suspect ourselves. When hereupon we are more careful to enquire into ourselves; and upon seeing others lose their hold, we are made more careful to lay hold on Jesus Christ.

6. When Professors increase in their earnest Prayer for strengthening and persevering Grace.

7. It is a hopeful Sign, when Persons increase in their Hatred of Sin, and Watchfulness against it. It is the cautious Christian, that is likely to hold fast.

O my Soul, how is it with thee, with respect to these things? I dare not deny but in the hearing they came close to me; not only as what did nearly concern me, but I would
humbly

humbly hope what I could find in some measure of Sincerity agree with the Experience of my Soul. And I have not only pray'd before but since, that I might be able to discern my real Case, and also compared my Heart with the Word, and thro' Grace can take Comfort in them, and Encouragement from them.

OCTOBER 30. 1711.

This Evening I have been employing myself in the Work of Examination. I hope I have been impartial, and must entertain some good Hope thro' Grace, that I am a sincere tho' a weak Christian. I have been enquiring into my Knowledge to discern the Lord's Body in the Sacrament, and into the Notion I have of the Nature of the Ordinance, and the Advantage of it to those that come duly prepared; how it is designed to confirm and increase Faith, and inflame our Love, and comfort the Soul. But alas, I find my Apprehensions of spiritual Things are dark and confused; yet I dare not deny some Acquaintance with these awful Mysteries. I would comprehend with all the Saints, the breadth, the length, the height and depth of the Love of Christ. This Scripture hath been much in my Thoughts, *Ye shall know, if ye follow on to know the Lord.*

But mere Knowledge is not sufficient. I must also have *Faith* to feed upon Christ.

But

But, O my Soul, where is thy Faith? When at any time I come to enquire into this Grace, I find great Cause to cry, *Lord, help my Unbelief.* Yet I hope I can believe on an unseen Jesus, and do make my Application to him for a Supply out of his Fulness. I have had some such Experience, that I could not doubt the Truth of Faith. But yet find still Cause to cry, *Lord, increase my Faith.* O! I find *believing* the hardest Work in the World.

I have also made some Enquiry into my *Love* to my Lord. And tho' I find Cause to be ashamed that I can love him no more, yet I humbly hope I can discern something of the Sincerity of this Grace. I hope I can say the Desire of my Soul is towards God, and my Delight is in God and Holiness. I hope he hath the Supremacy of my Love. I can say with the Psalmist, *Whom have I in Heaven but thee! and there is none upon Earth that I desire like thee.* I hope I can find, that Christ is precious beyond Comparison or Competition; that *I count all things but Loss for the Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.* He is in my Eye *the Pearl of Price, the Chiefest among ten Thousand, altogether lovely.* This also I find in me, a fixed Resolution to part with all, rather than with Christ. Tho' I could part with all rather than with Life, yet I find Cause to hope thro' Grace, I should let go Life rather than
than

than Christ, whom I love above Life. I would humbly hope my Love is in some good measure practical. I do count his Yoke easy, his Burthen light, and none of his Commandments grievous. I hope I find his Love somewhat constraining to Duties of Self-denial. I love the People of God. I can love that Soul which bears the divine Image, and that according to the Degree of Grace I can discern in any. Nay, if I never saw them, but only heard of them, I find my Affections going after them. I am ashamed I can love thee no more. My Comfort is, that I would love thee, that I long to love thee, even as thou wouldest be loved. O blow this Spark into a Flame, and grant that my universal Obedience may prove the Sincerity of my Love.

I have also searched into my *Repentance*. A Sinner sad Experience telleth me I am, and by Sin exposed to the Wrath of God; but I humbly hope I have been made to see a great Evil in Sin; that I have felt it to be my greatest Burthen, have been and daily am weary and heavy laden under the Sense of Sin; the Guilt, Pollution, Power, yea the very Being of Sin is my real Burthen. I think I hate it, as it is contrary to the Nature of God, and his Law, and my own Happiness, which consists in Conformity to God and Enjoyment of him. And the Apprehension of pardoning Love thro' a dear Redeemer,

Redeemer, doth almost melt my Heart into godly Sorrow. O! to sin against a God of infinite Love and Goodness! this doth at least sometimes wound me. I find further Cause to hope my Repentance sincere, because I find in me a fixed Resolution of better Obedience.

As to my *Obedience*, I have endeavoured to enquire into it, and I must own that I find it to be very lame and defective; but yet upon the most serious and impartial Thoughts, I dare not deny but my Aims and Care are to be faithful and universal in my walking. I humbly hope I endeavour to make the Will of God my Law, his Word my Rule, and I would have the Glory of God my End in all I do. I can't find that I allow myself in the Commission of any known Sin, or in the Omission of any known Duty. I have the Testimony of my Conscience, that in *Simplicity and godly Sincerity, &c.* I hope my Closet and the Family, my Shop and Associates, as well as the publick Assemblies of God's People, can bear me witness, that notwithstanding my unallowed Failings, I do endeavour to walk in all the Commandments of the Lord blameless.

I can truly say, I am willing to know my Duty that I may do it; and am, I hope, thankful for Instruction and Reproof too; and do account them my best Friends, that deal most plainly with me.

I had

I had much rather obey perfectly, than have a Dispensation to break any of the holy and righteous Laws of God. I dare appeal to the Searcher of Hearts, that my Sins of Infirmary are my daily Burthen; and I do pray for daily Supplies of Grace with a real Sense of my Wants; yet I am never more in earnest than when I pray for more Grace to do the Will of God.

I hope it is really thus with me; but, O gracious Father, let me not be deceived. O discover to me the worst of myself.

SEPTEMBER 27. 1713.

This Day I have been put upon the Examination of my Repentance; and upon the strictest Search I can make, I find good Ground to hope I have sincerely repented of Sin. I hope I have the Testimony of my Conscience, that it is with me as follows. I hope I have been made to see the evil Nature of Sin; that it is in itself exceeding sinful, and my own Sinfulness. I desire that all my Sin may be discovered to me. I hope also that Sin is my greatest Burthen. I hope I can bear a Reproof; and when at any time I meet with it, I do not seek to excuse or extenuate my Sins, but do aggravate them before the Lord. I hope my daily Practice witnesseth for me, that I endeavour to leave all Sin both in Heart and Life; and I hope the true Ground and Reason

son of my leaving Sin, is, because of the evil Nature of it, as it is contrary to God, and opposeth my own true Happiness. My hearty Desire is to leave Sin, not only for a time but for ever. The Remainders of Sin are what I am daily groaning under, and long to be delivered from. I am frequently crying out in the Bitterness of my Soul, *When, Lord, shall it once be?* I am really afraid of Temptations to Sin. I find also, that I love Holiness above all things else in the World: This is what I am aiming at and pressing after. I long to attain perfect Holiness, accounting that to be perfect Happiness.

Blessed be God for what he hath done for my Soul. As I find by sad Experience that I am a sinful Creature, I would bless God that I am a repenting Sinner. But dare not depend upon that for the Favour of God here and hereafter, but only on the Merits of Jesus. I may take the Comfort of, but by no means depend upon my Repentance.

OCTOBER 29. 1713.

This Day I have had another Call to come to Christ, and have been put upon the serious Enquiry, whether I have done so in a saving Manner. And this Evening I have spent a few Thoughts about it. After earnest Prayer to God, the Searcher of Hearts, that

that he would be pleased to discover to me the Truth of my State, and not suffer me to be deceived in a Matter of so great Concern to me, I find ground to hope the following Particulars do agree with the Experience of my own Soul.

1. That I have been made weary and heavy laden with a Sense of Sin, and heartily willing to accept his gracious Invitation to come to him.

2. I have been enabled, through divine Grace, to forsake Sin both in Heart and Life.

3. I have been made to desire after Christ before all the World. I hope I do really find that Christ is in my Eye the Pearl of great Price, and that I can part with all that is dear to me for Christ.

4. I have been enabled seriously and solemnly to devote myself to God. The Lord knows the solemn Transactions that have pass'd between him and my Soul in secret.

5. I do endeavour, though I come short in my Attainments, to walk closely with God in the way of Duty; that I find nothing in all the World so sweet and satisfying to me, as Communion with God in his Ordinances. Thus I hope it is really with me, in some measure of Sincerity. To God, to God be all the Praise.

H. PEARSALL.
CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

*Her solemn Seasons for Humiliation and
Covenant Transaction.*

SEPTEMBER 28. 1711.

I Find great Cause frequently to set a little Time apart to humble myself in secret before the Lord ; and this Day I have spent a few Hours in the Work. I have been reflecting how I have spent the Time, and what my Frame hath been. I hope my Aims were to get more Acquaintance with myself, my God and my Duty.

The former part of the Day, I found my Heart in a dull Frame, but little affected with my State in the general, and what I was purposing to employ myself in. Methought I was afraid to engage in the Work ; but hoped I could find sincere Desires and Aims ; and therefore made use of my then present Dulness, to put me on to the Work, in point of Necessity ; and when I came to engage actually in the solemn Work, I would humbly hope I met with divine Assistance. I was enabled to get some awful, serious Thoughts of the Presence I was in, and the Work I was going about : I was made to see something more of my own exceeding Sinfulness, than I can ordinarily. How did the Weakness of Grace and the Strength of Corruption

ruption appear in me! I hope I was in some measure humbled and grieved; and could, I hope, hate Sin and loath myself for it.

After I had spent some time in looking into myself, and viewing my Heart and Life, I went to Prayer. And here I would say, Blessed be God for appointing such a Duty as *secret Prayer*. I would look upon it not only as my Duty, but my highest Privilege, to have a God to go to, to pour out myself and open my Case and spread my Complaints before him.

I would humbly hope, I had divine and abundant Assistance in the Duty. God was pleased to give me some Sense of my natural Pollution, and my many actual Sins. The Sins of my Youth were bitter to me. I think I could heartily lament my Loss of Time; my sinning against Convictions and Resolutions, yea, my own Prayers and Covenant Engagements; yea, my Backslidings and careless, loose, indifferent Walking. Through Grace I had not only a Sense of my Sin, but of the only Remedy, Christ Jesus, the Lord my Righteousness, in whom only I have hope. With what Earnestness of Soul was I made to go out after him! Sure they were real Hungrings and Thirstings after Christ. I think, if ever I was in good earnest in my Desires, I was then. I was made to renounce all Hopes and Confidence in any other; to see them Physicians of no
D Value,

Value, but Dung and Dross, and thereupon to venture myself in his Hand; desirous that he should fulfil his own good Pleasure in me and upon me, and dispose of me, as he in his infinite Grace and Wisdom and Faithfulness saw meet.

I record this solemn Transaction, that I may have recourse to it for my Comfort in times of need. I will believe that I had divine Assistance in this Work, and more Strength than my own. Lord, I would live as thine; keep me close to thee. I have a Bent to backslide; but I trust I have put myself out of my own keeping, and that I am in safe Hands, in the Hands of my mighty Redeemer; and he hath told me that none shall pluck me out of his Hand.

I would say, Blessed be God that gave me this Opportunity, and inclined me to embrace it. O what Encouragement doth he give me to be faithful! Lord thou hast my Heart and Hand.

H. PEARSALL.

OCTOBER 17. 1711.

This hath been a Humiliation-Day. Blessed be God for such Seasons. I am sure I have great Reason to employ myself in Humiliation-Work. In the Morning I was purposing to be doing something in my secret Duties. But I know not how it was; I hope I was sincere, but not so engaged as I would and should be. But this is my Support under
Straitness,

Straitness, that my God knows not only what I am, but what I would be ; and that it is not pleasing to me to have it thus ; but on the contrary I am glad, when I can find a little Warmth.

As to my Attendance on publick Ordinances, I dare not deny but I met with abundant Assistance. Those few Moments I was there before the Minister began, I was enabled to get a few serious Thoughts, and I was filled with a Sense of my own Vileness ; and in Prayer I would humbly hope I was made to lie low before the Lord. I think if I know any thing of my ownself, I was truly affected, and somewhat lively engaged in the Work, and I found in me a real Concern for God's Glory and the Interest of his Church. I think his Interest more dear to me than formerly it hath been ; and from the Work I hope I shall be encouraged to Prayer. I would farther hope I have had the Tokens of his Presence this Evening, as I was desirous to close the Day with God, and renew my Humiliation. Blessed be God for this Day's Mercies ! O may I live up to them, and be brought nearer to thee, and qualified to receive more Blessings from thee.

JANUARY 1. 1712.

I have been purposing to set this Day apart to make some Reflections upon the past Year, and enquire into the Sins of it, that I

might renew my Repentance and Resolutions for a more holy and close walking for time to come ; to press my Soul with the Obligations I lie under, and to shame myself in the Sense of my short Comings and low Attainments, upon comparing the Means and Advantages I have had for my Growth in Grace with what I am and what I have done for God, my own Soul, or the Souls of others.

If I go about to enumerate my Sins (of the last Year) in Thought, Word and Deed, I find they are more than the Hairs of my Head, they cannot be numbred. But how many have I forgot ! How many upon Record which I have let slip and not observed ! And O the aggravating Circumstances my Sins have been attended with ! many of them have been committed against Light, the Checks of my own Conscience, and frequent Warnings from God. Yea, contrary to my Profession and Experiences ; and against many peculiar Mercies I have received, and strong Obligations to love and serve the Lord. Yea, against my own Purposes, and, I thought, *sincere* Resolutions of a more holy Walk.

Then, as to temporal and civil Affairs, how have I come short ! foolish Words, and rash Actions ! I have failed in my relative Duty. How many awakening Sermons have I heard the Year past, which I have lost ! How many Offers of Grace have I been entrusted with ! How many awful Providences

ces have I seen and heard of, that have been
lost upon me? O Lord, I am ashamed,
to me belongs Confusion of Face. If God
should condemn me and cast me off for ever,
I cannot but own his Justice. But I fly to
the Lord Jesus, the Lord my Righteousness.
And now, O my Soul, thou hast been ac-
knowledging thy Sins and begging Forgiveness,
wilt thou not by the Grace and Strength
of God, resolve to watch and strive against
Sin, and forsake it too! Yea, I would set my
Resolutions, not only *against* Sin, but *for*
Holiness. But how oft have I mocked God,
and been deceiving myself with formal and
faint Purposes? How oft are my good Re-
solutions like the Morning Cloud and early
Dew, that passeth away? When a Tempta-
tion hath come, how have I discovered my
Weakness? In a Sense hereof I would more
humbly and entirely depend upon the Grace
of Christ; in vain do I resolve without the
Assistance of his mighty Power, to strengthen
my Heart and Hands. The Flesh is so
frail, the Enemy is so subtle and potent, the
Snares of the World so many, remaining
Corruptions so strong; my Heart is so de-
ceitful, the Rule I am to walk by so strict,
spiritual and extensive, and there are so many
difficult Duties incumbent upon me, that I
may well suspect myself. Such Humility and
Caution is every where so needful; such
Work I daily make for Repentance, and

such Occasion I have for Thankfulness in every State and Condition; and Perseverance is so absolutely necessary, notwithstanding so many Hindrances in my way either enticing or affrightning me from Duty, that if God had not promised that his Grace should be sufficient, and that I shall not be tempted above what I am able to bear, I should utterly despair of making good what I have now been resolving.

O most Blessed and Glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, thy Favour is better than Life. I give up myself to thee as my King and my God, to rule and sanctify me now, and to be my everlasting Portion. I desire to be my own no longer. Accept what is thine own. At all Times and in all Conditions, I would be at thy Disposal; deliberately resolving to walk before thee in Righteousness and Holiness all the Days of my Life. O Blessed Jesus, I acknowledge thee my Prophet, Priest and King. My Sacrifice, my Surety and my Ransom, to satisfy for my Sins, to instruct me in the divine Will, to teach me the Mysteries of thy Kingdom. I desire to take thy Yoke upon me, which is easy, and thy Burthen which is light. O God the Holy Ghost, I take thee to be my great Teacher and Sanctifier. By thee I have been convinced of Sin against the Law of God, and the Gospel of Christ, and of the Necessity of his Merits

Merits and Righteousness for the Justification of my guilty Soul. O Blessed Spirit, enlighten my Eyes, purify my Heart, and do thou witness to me also. I have given myself to be the Lord's in a way of Covenant; but distrusting myself, I give up myself entirely to the Conduct of thy Grace. I call Heaven and Earth, O Lord, to witness this Day, that I own and avow this to be my Mind and the settled Purpose of my Soul. This I confirm without any Exceptions.

H. PEARSALL.

AUGUST 31. 1713.

I have been setting a little Time apart this Day to seek God, to humble myself before him, being in some measure sensible of my Want of Life and Growth in Grace and Holiness, and find my Heart bent to backslide, my Affections apt to flag; and being convinced that this is a likely way to engage the Presence of God, yea, and having had many sweet Experiences of God's hearing my poor Prayers, I have great Encouragement to the Work.

I confessed Sin for some time, but it was but in an ordinary Manner, as at other times; but afterwards my Heart began to thaw, and God was pleased to break in upon my dark, dead Soul, and made me to see Sin to be exceeding sinful. My original

Sin did lay me low ; and then my actual Sins with all their aggravating Circumstances, how many and great did they appear ! How vile did I appear in my own Eyes ! I cannot express what Convictions were made upon my Mind ; but I believe they were such as came from the Spirit of God. Such a Sight I had of my Sinfulness, I find impossible to get when I will. Who can melt and break a hard Heart, but Omnipotent Grace ? and that can. To find myself out of Hell, filled me with Admiration. O never was poor Soul more beholden to free Grace than I. A Sense of my Ingratitude laid me low at his Feet. But this was my Support, that *Jesus is able and willing to save to the uttermost, all that come to God through him.* O ! I would not for all the World that Verse were out of the Bible. How did the exceeding Riches of his Grace appear towards me ! When I come to Heaven, I shall have as much Cause to set the Crown of Glory upon the Head of free Grace, as ever poor Creature had. And I have Cause to believe, it will shine forth in me with as much Splendor as in any.

The Sense of my Vileness made Christ appear exceeding precious to me. I hope I was enabled to lay hold on him with the lively Actings of Faith. I thought no Terms could be hard.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

Her Frame under Afflictions.

JUNE 27. 1720.

IT is two Years since it pleased the infinitely wise and good God to remove my dear Joseph. I have had many warm, moving Thoughts working in me these few Days past; those that have been humbling and quickning, and those that have excited Thankfulness towards that God that supported me under that Trial. A Trial indeed it was, the greatest I may say that I ever felt. May I not say, I had fainted unless I had believed! What I then tasted I hope hath strongly obliged me to love the Lord; and confirmed my Hope that he is my God, my Covenant God. I hope I have been enabled to justify and acknowledge his Sovereignty in all his Dealings; and am not without hope, that his Dealings were Mercy, Love and Faithfulness to me. I hope the sincere Desire of my Soul is to think well of all that God doth, and would fain have my Will entirely resigned to the whole Will of God, concerning me and mine.

Sensible I would be, but not dejected, and by no means sullen; that would put more Bitterness into the Cup. God hath many Arrows in his Quiver; and he can heat the Fur-

nace seven times hotter ; and again and again seven times hotter, till he hath consumed us. And if he should do so, still we may say, *he punishes us less than our Iniquities deserve.* I would humbly hope my Desire hath been and still is with *Aaron to hold my peace.* If God may be sanctified, I would be satisfied. If God may have Glory from afflictive Providences, I have nothing to say against them. I hope it is both our earnest Desire to improve the Providences of God ; for it is a great Loss, not to be made better by them. I do believe there are many Lessons to be learnt, which would be of unspeakable Advantage to us. *viz.*

1. It should for ever imbitter Sin to us. As she said to the Prophet, *Art thou come to call my Sin to Remembrance, and to slay my Son ?* It is Sin, Sin, that hath raised these Storms, and troubled our House. O that we may be the Death of that which hath been the Death of our Children !

2. It should be a Spur to us, to put us on in Heaven's way. I am conscious to myself there was need of this Affliction (especially before the Death of my *Joe*) I was growing more remiss in my Duty ; my Heavenly Father saw it ; and (may I not conclude ?) sent this sad Providence to be my Monitor ; to tell me whence I was fallen, and bid me repent and do my first Works !

3. I would learn by this Providence, as long as I live, to keep my Affections within due Bounds towards Creature Comforts. How hard do I find it *to love, and not over-love*? Now God is a jealous God, and will not give his Glory to another; and may we not fear our Excess this way hath provoked him to remove the Mercy from us, which we made an Idol of?

4. Are our Children gone before us? This should be a Means to draw our Hearts upwards and homewards. Should we not be looking oftner than ever into the other World? It is but a little while, and all the things of Time will be swallowed up in Eternity; and if we could but duly consider this, it is no great Matter, whether we or ours die first, since we are *all* dying. It hath been my constant Prayer to my Heavenly Father, that he would give us a Name better than that of Sons and Daughters, and make up all in himself. To him be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

NOVEMBER 12. 1721.

Since this Month began, I have had many Reflections on the Difficulties and Dangers I past through the last Year this Month. God hath been exercising me with Children, in giving and taking; in raising my Hopes and then disappointing. In all I humbly own his Sovereignty. Who dare say unto him,
What

What dost thou? I would with all Humility say, Shew me wherefore thou contendest with me. Sure there is a Cause! Sin is the Jonab, and yet it still lives in me, and is too prevalent. It is sad that neither Providences nor Ordinances have any better Effect upon me. O! This indwelling Sin makes my Life bitter, and me long to be gone hence. O that I had the Wings of a Dove, then would I fly away and be at rest. How blessed are the Saints above, that have done sinning and suffering! I would look and long, hope and wait and cry, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. But thy Time is best.

SEPTEMBER 17. 1724.

The Providences of God are various. Sometimes we are lifted up, and sometimes cast down. Sometimes the World smiles, and sometimes frowns. Happy they, and only they, that have God for their Portion! Riches make to themselves Wings and fly away; Friends die, and *our* Lives are uncertain. Blessed be God that Crosses and Disappointments are in the Covenant. O that the present Trial I meet with, may be in Covenant Love! and then though for the present it is not joyous but grievous, it will yield the peaceable Fruit of Righteousness. How tenderly hath God dealt with us! still punishing us less than our Iniquities deserve. May this gentle Touch of his Rod, answer the End for which

it

it is sent, lest forer Strokes fall upon us. I would not murmur; he is a God of infinite Wisdom, and knows *how* and *when* to afflict his Children; he cannot err, and he does not afflict willingly. How justly may God strip me of All! and should he thus deal with me, I must justify him still. I would patiently bear what I am now exercised with, and bless him for what I enjoy. I have given myself and all to God to be disposed of as he pleases; and I would have my Will entirely resigned to the Will of God. But here I find great Cause to complain of a froward Will. How hard to submit to what crosses my Will! O Lord, help me.

JANUARY 3. 1727.

God hath by his afflictive Providences been telling us in this Place, he hath a Controversy with us. O! that we may be wise to hear the Rod, and see who hath appointed it. Many, very many hath God removed in the midst of their Days, and may I not say, many in the midst of their Usefulness. *We* have lost a dear and loving Brother, and our eldest Brother. God hath made a sore Breach in our Family. One every way desirable, and one useful in his Place and Day. One from whom we had *great* Expectations of Usefulness, being capacitated above many to do Good. He is gone, but not lost: he gave good Satisfaction of his eternal State.

State. But these are not all the Warnings that God hath given me; he hath been pleased to touch me in my own Person. I was seized with the same Fever, that carried off so many round about me, in so little Time. He hath been afflicting my Yoke-fellow with Pains; and hath also been gracious to us, and heard our Cry. Therefore, O! therefore, will I call upon him as long as I live.

JANUARY 24. 1727.

Yet God seems to contend with us. He hath been touching us in a very tender Part. Hath threatned to take from us the Delight of our Eyes, the Joy of our Hearts, with a Stroke. But had Pity upon us, and in the midst of Judgment remembred Mercy. The Child was almost free among the dead, had all the Symptoms of Death, and yet God said, *Return and live.*

In our Distress we prayed, and called our Friends together to pray for us; I hope we were desirous to lay the Child and ourselves at the Feet of Mercy, and to resign it to the Hands of God, to deal as best pleased him; as might be most for his Glory, and our real Good: and I would take notice of the kind Dealings of God to me herein, that when we were praying for the Child, I found my Mind in so quiet and submissive a Frame.

DEC E M-

DECEMBER 8. 1729.

Yesterday was the *Sabbath*, and by Course our Sacrament-Day; but by poor Mr. — Illness we were prevented enjoying the precious Ordinance. We were met together and sat down at the Table, but dismiss'd. It was, I must own, very affecting to be thus disappointed. I came away with Shame, and some Distress of Mind. I retired as soon as I came Home. After some serious Reflections, I laid myself down at the Footstool of divine Grace, with a Desire to humble myself in a Sense of my Sins, and the Sins of the Society, that provoked our gracious God thus to frown upon us; and earnestly to supplicate the divine Favour and Regard. I would mourn after a departing God, and intreat his Stay. O leave us not after thou hast done us so much good. That little Time thus spent, made such Impressions upon my frail Body, that I could do nothing in the Evening. O what a Clog is this poor weak Body to the Soul!

O gracious God, make and keep suitable Impressions upon my Heart. O may I follow hard after God, and the uninterrupted Enjoyment of him,

*Where Congregations ne'er break up,
And Sabbaths have no End.*

AUGUST

AUGUST 13. 1732.

It hath pleased the great Sovereign Lord of All, last Evening to lay his afflicting Hand upon me. I was very suddenly seized with Illness; the Fever was high, and I was brought low by it; but as God laid on with the one Hand, he supported with the other. I bless God, my Frame under the Affliction was easy, nay, comfortable. I cannot express what Impressions were made upon my Mind; but they were such as did excite my Love to him, and enlarged my Desires after him. O how did the Truth and Faithfulness of God appear in afflicting me! how clearly did I discern things! those things, which in general I love the Sense of. I was thankful for the Affliction, and for the Frame I was then in, under it. Blessed be God, that did not leave me wholly to myself. I bless him for Mercies, and for seasonable, sanctified Afflictions; they do me——*I know not how much good.* I would not be without them, for the Crown of *England*, supposing my Need of them the same that now it is. Let others bless themselves in their continued, growing Prosperity; blessed be God for seasonable, sanctified Afflictions, saith my Soul. Though so ill, and so very ill last Night and this Morning, yet through much Mercy, I was enabled to go out the latter Part of the Day.

Day. Blessed be God, I heard sweet and comfortable Truths, that *there is no Condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus*: I heard them with Pleasure, and could hope in this Mercy.

C H A P. IX.

Her Improvement of Providences relating to others.

SEPTEMBER 8. 1716.

THIS Day I have been attending two Persons to the Grave, both younger than myself. One hath been wearing off for some time; but the other's Death was sudden, and very surprizing. One Day well, and the next dead! she went to Bed well, and in two Hours in Eternity! O surprizing Stroke, to step into Eternity before we think of it! to find ourselves at the Bar of a just and holy God, sentenced to an unalterable State, before we knew we were leaving this! If the Soul be found ready, the Surprize will be joyful. O my Soul, take the Warning, and let it excite thee to Diligence in thy preparatory Work. It is an Interest in Christ only, that can make me to die safely, and only my Knowledge of it, that can make it comfortable. The last Night when I awoke, I could not but have some supposing Thoughts, what if Death should come to me, as it had
done

done to Cousin C----- the Night before. I was put then upon reflecting on former Transactions, and could then say, If Death should come this Night and in the same Manner, *I know in whom I have believed, &c.*

FEBRUARY 2. 1727.

This is a sorrowful Day indeed to us in this Place. This Day dear Mr. *Spilsbury* was laid in the Grave. The great God seems to have a Controversy with us; he hath smitten the Shepherd; O that the Sheep may not be scattered. We are a provoking People; it is a Wonder of Mercy we have enjoyed him so long. O that we may every one of us look into our own Hearts, and endeavour to find out the *Achan* that troubles our *Israel*. The Lord's Voice cries to this Town; O that we may now hear the Rod, and who hath appointed it. I desire to lament the Sins of the Society in general, and my own in particular, that have had a great Hand in bringing this sore and heavy Affliction upon us. O what Cause have I to cry out, *My Barrenness! my Barrenness!* under such rich and choice Means. O that a Sense of my Sin and Folly, may both humble and quicken me to and in my Duty for the future.

As I have great Cause to be humbled for my great Unprofitableness, yet I would not forget to be thankful, that I have any Reason to hope, through the Grace of God,
he

he was pleased to make him an Instrument for Good to my Soul. If I have hope that there is a good Work wrought in me, must I not believe good Mr. *Spilisbury* was the Instrument! Was it not by him that I was first awakened and made sensible of my lost State by Nature! How oft hath he spoke to my very Case so fully, that I could not but say, *Surely the Spirit of God was with him.* How hath the Word come with irresistible Power and Efficacy to my Soul! and with what Sweetness have I sate under it many Times! So that I have cause to bless God, that ever I saw his Face, or heard his Voice. I can hope also, that the next Meeting will be with Comfort. How joyful will it be, to hear him say, *Here I am, and the Children whom thou hast given me.* O joyful Day! I would be preparing, and looking, and longing for that Time. I have had many pleasing, raised Thoughts, since his and my dear Brother's Death, of their Employments and Enjoyments. But I know but little.

MAY 16. 1727.

It hath pleased the infinitely wise and gracious God, the Sovereign Lord of his Creatures, this Day to remove our dear and honoured Father. I would be dumb and not open my Mouth, because the Lord hath done it. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, and still we must say, *Blessed be the Name*

Name of the Lord. Blessed be God we had such a Father, one truly religious, and in Covenant himself, and one who took hold of the Covenant for us his Children; who in our Infancy dedicated us to the Lord, and took care to train us up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord. A praying Father! We have lost one that was constant and instant in this Work. He hath laid up a Stock of Prayers for his Children. A bright and shining Example of Holiness! O that the Children may be Followers of them who through Faith and Patience are inheriting the Promises! That this Providence may be so sanctified that it may bring us nearer to God and Duty, and a more diligent Preparation for our own Departure. It will be but a little Time, and I must go the way of all Flesh; a way we shall not return. O that I may now converse more with our glorified Friends. Thrice happy they that are in the Presence-Chamber of the Lamb! that are in the clear Vision, and full Fruition of their dearest Lord. Lord, send down thy quickning Grace, and fit me to ascend.

FEBRUARY 26. 1728.

I must now write myself not only Fatherless, but Motherless. After many Months Illness and Weakness, it hath pleased our gracious God and Father, to give our dear and honoured Mother, a Release from all those

those Sorrows she groaned under here, and through free Grace, I trust, advanced her to the glorious Liberty of the Saints above; a State and Place her pious Soul longed to attain. Happy Soul! Shall I wish her back again? O no, no; she is where she would be. It's true, I want her pleasant Company and Conversation. O that we the Children of the Family, might be found treading in the Steps of our dear Parents; and remember those Instructions they took care to press upon us. Should any of us miscarry, it will be with dreadful Aggravations. O that all of us may give Diligence to make our Calling and Election sure. *Amen.*

MARCH 26. 1728.

This Day dear Mother *Housman* took her Flight from Time to Eternity; from a World of Sin and Sorrows, Cares and Fears, to a State of perfect Rest, Happiness, Holiness and Joy. Happy Soul, slipt into Rest. Surprizing Change! now in the Presence-Chamber of her Lord, joining with those about the Throne.

We are left to combat with Enemies and Difficulties a little longer; O that we may be faithful to God and our Duty; and then we may hope through Grace, to overtake those who are got within the Veil. O that we who survive, may endeavour to get ready for the coming of our Lord; that when
Death

Death comes, we may have nothing to do but to die ; as I hope was the Case of dear Mother *Housman*. Blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord.

FEBRUARY 14. 1729.

Much of my Time is gone. This Night my Soul may be required of me. The last Night Death called away a Neighbour, that was well and in the Market Yesterday. A loud Call, *Be ye also ready.*

*What if my Sun should set at Noon,
If Death should call to Day ;
Canst thou, my Soul, go off so soon ;
Hast thou no Scores to pay ?*

MARCH 19. 1729.

This Day I have been afflicted with the Afflictions of others ; Neighbours and some of my Relations, that have the sad Tidings of a great Loss, that it is feared, is coming upon them. I would weep with them that weep, being myself also in the Body ; and having tasted the same Affliction, would comfort others with the same Comforts wherewith we ourselves have been comforted. This convinceth me more and more, of the Vanity of this World and all its Enjoyments. O my Soul, live more in the Expectation of Trials and Difficulties overtaking thee. Blef-
fed

sed be God, this World is not our Portion.
If we are Christians, whatever we lose, our
All is safe. O my Soul, make this more
and more sure and clear.

MARCH. 20.

The late Tidings of the Losses which our
Friends and Neighbours sustain, give a large
Demonstration of the Vanity of the World.
We must justify God in his severest Trials;
and still bless God it is not worse with us than
it is. I have often said, and said it upon my
Knees, "Let the Lord do what he will with
" me, I will love him and cleave to him
" still; Afflictions shall not drive me from,
" but bring me nearer to my God." For
my part, I know no God but thee, and am
resolved to take up with nothing short of an
Interest in thy Love.

APRIL 23. 1729.

Unexpected Crosses do frequently overtake
us in this uncertain World. The sudden Ill-
ness of my Sister Yesterday, was surprizing.
Blessed be God, the threatned Danger was
prevented.

I live when others die. I hear of two
Persons of Note, that are thought dange-
rously ill; and the tolling of the Bell gives
me notice, that another is dead. O Lord,
help me to be preparing for my last End.
I know not how soon I may be called hence.

O my

O my Soul, how go Matters between God and thyself! dost thou go upon sure Grounds for Eternity? Lord, grant I may not be deceived at last.

M A Y 13. 1729.

This Day I have been visiting those that are sick and weak. One young Person that seems near another World, and now in another Mind than in Health; now is lamenting the Loss of precious Time, and fearing to enter upon Eternity. O my Soul, be awakened and quickened to be up and doing with all thy Might; the Night of Death is coming, in which no Man can Work. I would be getting all ready before Sickness and Death comes. A Time of Sickness is a very unfit one to do the great Work in. Now I have a comfortable Measure of Health, I would improve it, and lay hold of the Hope set before me.

N O V E M B E R 17. 1729.

This Day the sorrowful Tidings of good Mr. *Thompson's* Death hath been brought me. A great Loss to the Church of God in general, and to poor *Bromsgrove* in particular. He has done labouring, and is now in the Rest that was promised to the Faithful. O happy Soul! O glorious Day! he is now where he would be. He was one that wrestled hard to keep off Judgments. O what
may

may we fear is coming upon this sinful Nation! The great God hath a Controversy with us, and he is calling his choice ones Home apace. What shall we do, when our *Moses's*, our *Jacobs* are gone! O that we might, every Family apart, every Person apart, humble ourselves before the Lord, and sigh and mourn for the abounding of Sin, and the lamentable Decay of Religion. I desire the Congregation to which he belonged, might in a particular Manner be awakened and made sensible of their Loss. Help, Lord, for the godly Man ceaseth, and the Faithful fail from among the Children of Men. The Righteous perisheth and no Man layeth it to Heart; and the merciful Men are taken away from the Evil to come. Who, who is there that considers this as he ought?

JUNE 18. 1731.

God is known by the Word of his Mouth, and by the Works of his Hand, and the Judgments that are abroad. The dreadful Fires, that have lately happened at *Blandford* and *Tiverton*, are very awful Providences. I would sympathize with the poor Sufferers, and be willing and ready to extend my Charity towards their Relief, when it shall be called for. I would pray for them, and beg the God of Pity would grant them Relief; give them Favour in the Eyes of those that are able to communicate to their Support.

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I am

I am pleased to hear they have Help from Neighbours; Lord, grant they may find more.

But what is the Voice of this awful Providence? Sure it is an Intimation of the Displeasure of the great God; and justly may he send his Plagues into the midst of us. He hath before been contending with this Nation by lesser Judgments, by Sicknes, by Deadnes of Trade; but who hath returned to the Lord? He hath also been trying us with Mercies; but alas what a stubborn People are we, that are not drawn by the milder Methods, nor driven by more severe Dispensations!

O my Soul, shall it be thy Care to make some spiritual Improvement of such Providences! Here is a plain Discovery of the Uncertainty of the World and its best Enjoyments. Some in these Places in the Morning worth 1000*l.* or 2000*l.* yet before Night deprived of All, had not an Habitation, nor a Morsel of Bread. Let it be thy Care to make sure of something better, something of a more durable Nature. Happy they and only they, that are so wise as to lay up their Treasure in Heaven, where neither Moth nor Rust can corrupt, nor Thieves steal, nor Flames consume.

O my Soul, let this quicken thee in thy Diligence, to make thy Calling and Election sure; that so if Trials should overtake thee,
and

and thou shouldst lose thy Enjoyments here, thou mayst not be undone, thy Portion, thy *All* being safe. God grant it may not be my Case ; but since while in the Body, I am liable to the Distresses others groan under, supposing it should be thy Lot, how wouldst thou behave? I have great Reason to suspect myself, lest when I come to be tried so as by Fire, my Dross would not only appear, but prevail to my Shame, and to the Dishonour of thy Name and the Profession I have made. But I have often prayed, and would go on to beg, that as my Day is, my Strength may be, and that I may not be tempted above what I am able to bear: I would still remember who it is that has said, *My Grace is sufficient for thee*. Through Christ I can do all Things, and suffer all Things, that infinite Wisdom sees fit to exercise me with ; but without him I can do nothing.

CHAP. X.

Her Publick-Spiritedness and Concern for others, in Body and Soul.

JANUARY 28. 1729.

THIS hath been what we call our Humiliation, or our Preparation-Day. These have been Days of high Account, and I hope Days of special Advantage to me. But alas what a Change do I experience in my own
E 2 Soul !

Soul! and methinks they are not kept with that Solemnity as formerly. Upon these Days I often think it is like what we read of, that when the second Temple was built, the old Men wept, because the second came so far behind the Glory of the first, O what solemn Days have I known kept in this Place! Have we not Reason to fear the Spirit of Prayer and Humiliation is much lost, and we a stupid People, settled upon our Lees! yea, notwithstanding we have been emptied from Vessel to Vessel. What Reason have we to mourn after a departing God! O that God would revive his own Work in the midst of the Days, and carry it on with Power. How much is Religion upon the declining Hand! this is what I desire to mourn for, that the Glory is so much departed. O my Soul, take shame to thyself before the Lord, in a Sense of thy own Sins, that have had a Hand in causing God to depart. O my Pride, my Unbelief, my Hypocrisy and Barrenness, under the Plenty of rich Means and gracious Indulgences! I have been lifted up to Heaven in point of Enjoyments; but alas, I am but a Shrub still, a mere Non-profit in Grace and Holiness.

DECEMBER 14. 1729.

This hath been a *Sabbath*. Blessed be God, the Doors of his House are opened to us, and
we

we have had Ministers speaking in his Name. For our Barrenness God may justly take away his Gospel, Ministers, Ordinances, and shut up the Doors, and write *Icabod* upon us. We have been fed to the full, but have not brought forth Fruit. God is lessening our Opportunities; I must acknowledge we have forfeited all our Privileges, and God may justly make us know the Worth of them, by the Want of them. I would call to Mind the Days of old, when the Candle of the Lord shined upon his Tabernacle, and when in his Light we walked and rejoiced. I have enjoyed great Plenty, a bright Gospel-Day; what I may live to see, and how God will deal with us, I know not; but it looks dark. O that God would pour upon us a Spirit of Prayer, that we may cry earnestly, that he may have Mercy upon us, and return and leave a Blessing behind him.

JANUARY II. 1730.

Blessed be my gracious Father, that he hath provided a Supply of faithful Ministers to speak in his Name. This Day we have had the Assistance of a young Minister, Mr. B---- a very fine Man indeed! he hath shew'd our Justification is of Faith, that it may be of Grace. I rejoice there are some coming up, to fill the Places of them that are gone, whom thou hast taken out of the Vineyard, and transplanted into thy Temple above,

where they are Pillars, and shall go no more out. God hath been pleased to lay his afflicting Hand on our dear Pastor, but he doth not leave us destitute. We have this Day Children's Bread. O may I grow in Grace thereby, and by the good Word of thy Grace, be nourished up to eternal Life, for Jesus sake. *Amen.*

MARCH 5. 1730.

This Day I have received an Answer to a Letter, which I sent to a distant Friend, one that hath made a large Profession of Religion, and hath seemed to grow cold and indifferent. I hope my Desire was to Caution, warn and reprove, out of Christian Charity. I feared lest they should be offended rather than amended; but this Day I have received Thanks for my Freeness therein, which I take notice of, as an Encouragement to my Duty therein. Lord, make me more sincere and faithful in the whole of my Duty, that I may endeavour to keep a Conscience void of Offence towards God and Man. I would do justly, love Mercy, and walk humbly with my God; that *this may be my rejoicing, the Testimony of my Conscience, that in Simplicity, &c.* I have, I humbly hope, had some Comfort from this Scripture *Living*, and I hope shall *Dying*.

MARCH

MARCH 24.

This Day I have heard of Prayer. It is what I desire to be more and better acquainted with. I have been purposing, the Lord enabling me, to be more employed in this Work, upon my own Account, and upon the Account of these sinful Nations, and the sad Symptoms that are to be found at this Day among us. I have been desirous to do something to promote an Hour of Prayer once a Week, with respect to the Publick; but am fearing lest I should not be sincere, and lest God should not accept me. O that we may stir up ourselves and one another, to take hold of a departing God. Wo unto us, if God depart from us.

JUNE 9.

I have proposed this Project of Prayer to some of my Friends; have wrote a pretty many Letters, and have sent them abroad and among my Friends at home; and have received Answers from some of them, who give their Approbation, and have assured me of engaging others in the Work. One particularly, from whom I received a Letter Yesterday, gave me an Account, that they shewed the Letter to Ministers, who seem'd both to approve of it, and many other private Christians, who all seem to concur in the Proposal. Blessed be God for any Encouragement.

E. 4.

O may

O may we all be sincere, humble and importunate in the Work.

I have spent most of my Time that I could get from my necessary Affairs in my Family, in writing Letters upon this Occasion; and have many more I design to make an Adventure with. Good Lord, grant me thy Direction, Assistance and Blessing. I would make thy Glory my chief Aim, the good of the Nation, and the Revival of the Spirit of Prayer. O that I could feel more of it stirring in my own Soul.

FEBRUARY 14. 1731.

How little is there of the Power of Religion in this Place! it seems to die with our Fathers. Lord, what wilt thou do for thy great Name? O that something may be done to engage young ones for God and Religion, that so there might be a Seed to serve God to the latest Generation.

SEPTEMBER 12.

I have been somewhat affected with seeing my little Daughter, that is but little more than seven Years old, so much convinced and ashamed of her Ingratitude towards God, when I said a little to her of her forgetting to return Thanks to God for her Food. O my Soul, let this Instance of the Child's weeping and lamenting that she offended God, put thee upon serious Reflections and deep

deep Humiliations, for thy base Ingratitude towards so good a God, so kind a Saviour and bountiful a Benefactor.

MAY 27. 1732.

I have had this Evening, my dear Child with me in my Closet, conversing with her, endeavouring to awaken her, and convince her of her Sin and Misery, by Nature and Practice. The Child was seemingly affected and melted into Tears, and in Distress; so much that I was fain to turn my Discourse, and tell her that God was good, and willing to pardon and receive Sinners, especially those Children that were willing to be good betimes, and in their younger Days set themselves to love and serve God. I told her she must pray to God to pardon her, and give her Grace to serve him. The Child seemed willing to pray, but wanted Words to express herself; I asked her if I should help her, and teach her to pray. Lord, forgive my Neglects in this and every Part of my Duty, accept my sincere Desire to do thy Will in every respect. Set in with Instructions, Admonitions, and Reproof. Lord, without thy Blessing nothing will do good. O that this dear Offspring may rise and call thee Blessed. I would plead the Promise; Lord, hast thou not said, *I will be thy God, and the God of thy Seed also?* O make good the Word unto thy Servant, that is devoted to thy Fear.

JUNE II. 1732.

My dear Brother hath been employed this Day, in preaching the Word to us, from Col. iii. 4. *When Christ who is our Life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in Glory.* A comfortable Truth, and delivered in a very serious Manner! I beg it may not be a lost Truth, a lost *Sabbath*. I find Conversions wrought in the Minds of some; particularly our poor Servant M. L. came to me this Evening with Tears, and told me she was never so convinced of Sin and the Neglect of Duty, as she was this Day, by what M. P. preached; earnestly begging she may improve her Time better, and the Privileges she doth enjoy with us.

C H A P. XI.

Her Value for the Word, and Impressions under it.

I Have had many sweet Experiences of God's Power, in the preaching of his holy Word, by several of his Ministers: But in a more particular Manner by his faithful Servant and Ambassador Mr. *Spilbury*, whom I would look upon as my spiritual Father. How often hath he spoken to my particular Case, as though he had known my very Thoughts! Let me keep them in Remembrance

brance to the Glory of God and my future Comfort.

Some Time after the last Sacrament, in which the Lord was pleased to afford me those Manifestations of his Love, I was ready to fear, lest I was deceived with false Hopes. But the Lord's Day after, Mr. Spilbury expounded in the Evening Exercise, *Matt. xiii. 44. The Kingdom of Heaven is like to a Treasure hid in the Field, which when a Man hath found, he goeth and selleth all that he hath for Joy, and buyeth that Field.* And in his opening these Words and describing the Joy there meant, the Lord was pleased to confirm my Hope and revive my Joy. O how sweet is the Word, when God makes it to reach the Heart!

Though at many other Times God has by his Word met with me, there is one Particular more that I would *especially* remember. I would never forget, that Mr. Spilbury preached on Lecture-Days from *Cant. iv. 16. Awake thou North-Wind, &c.* From these Words he told us, that sincere Christians desire nothing more than an enlarged Heart in Duty. If ever I knew what an enlarged Heart was, sure it was under those Sermons. How often have I felt great Meltings of Soul, that I could say with holy David, *A Day in thy Courts is better than a Thousand elsewhere!* And have been ready to wish, I could always be employed in the immediate Worship of God.

God. How amiable are thy Tabernacles,
O Lord of Hosts!

AUGUST 30. 1711.

This being Lecture-Day, I had an Opportunity of attending on the Word preached from *Psal. xxvii. 4. Delight thyself in the Lord, and he shall give thee the Desires of thy Heart.* I think I sat under the Word with great Delight, and its Fruit was sweet to my Taste. I was told that the Delight of gracious Souls is in God. Two Things must concur to make us delight in God. 1. There must be Interest in God. 2. There must be a clear Sense of this, that God is our God.

I could not upon the hearing of this, but taste a real Sweetness, and was raised into a comfortable Frame; but not so much enlarged as in the Evening, upon the second hearing. As I attended upon Repetition, Singing, and Prayer, God was pleased to make such sensible Impressions upon me, that I could not conceal it. I think I really felt my Heart burn within me. Such lively Impressions were made upon me, as cannot be express'd, nor conceived of, but by those that feel them. Surely it was that Joy, which a Stranger intermeddles not with. When God is pleased to reveal himself to the Soul, and make it to discern its Interest in God, it cannot chuse but rejoice.

I could

I could not forbear making some Discovery of it to Mr. *Spilbury*, I being in his House. The Lord knows what my Aims were. I think it was the Glory of God. I could not but tell him, "O Sir, now I can delight in
" God as my God. O help me to love and
" praise that God, that deals thus bounti-
" fully with me." He spake very comfortably to me, and also gave me some needful Cautions; also what Use I should make of God's distinguishing Dealings with me. It should lay me very low, and engage me to walk very humbly, and also excite my Love towards him; herein, saith he, you cannot exceed. I could not but heartily thank him, and must freely own, the humblest, closest walking becomes me.

Methinks I do not repent my making this Discovery, because I gave him an Opportunity to give me those needful Cautions. I bless God that enables me to receive them so kindly. O! methinks I can see much of his Love appear, and his Faithfulness in his Duty to God and my Soul. The Lord reward him a Thousand-fold, for all his Labours of Love to me.

Since I came from him, I cannot express what have been my Enjoyments in my Evening Retirements. Fine and solid Pleasure in Communion with God in Prayer. O how amazing is the Condescension of God, to deal

with

with his poor Creature in so familiar a way !
it is only for *his* and *my* dear Jesus sake.

SEPTEMBER 7. 1711.

It hath been a Market-Day for Soul and Body ; whereon I have had Opportunity of making Provision for both. I had the Liberty of God's House, and heard the Word preached ; it was on the indwelling of the Spirit in the Hearts of Believers ; that he dwells in them *graciously, efficaciously, constantly, and holily*. As soon as I was come from God's House to my own, I met with Company. I was necessitated to engage with them, they being near Relations. I think I was afraid of losing that little Sense I had upon my Spirit. So soon as conveniently I could, I retired, to breathe out a few Desires, and to beg spiritual Protection. I was enabled to attend them, and converse with them chearfully, and was very easy in my Mind, hoping I was not out of the way of my Duty. After a few Hours they were gone ; I began then to look within, and enquire what my Frame had been, and what Frame my Spirit was left in. I made the Reflection somewhat comfortably ; but was fearing, as I have Reason enough, lest this Heart deceive me. I prayed a little for Pardon and farther Assistance, and then went to Repetition ; and though I thought I was somewhat serious, yet I have great Reason to complain of a divided

vided Heart. O! methinks, I see more and more what poor empty Things Duties are without the Presence of God in them, and his quickening Grace. I would learn hence to be more sensible of the absolute Necessity of depending upon the Strength of my mighty Redeemer. I would be thankful that my Life is in so great a Measure a retired one. I am contentedly, nay out of Choice, a Stranger to the ensnaring Vanities of this Life. Blessed be his Name, that he hath made me to taste a real Excellency in Religion; so as to prefer an Hour's Communion with God before all the Riches, Honours, and Pleasures of this World. Let others take the World, and delight themselves in the Enjoyments of it; for my part I will never take up with it. No, a God for me, a Christ for me, Holiness and Heaven for me!

H. PEARSALL.

SEPTEMBER 20.

This hath been a Humiliation-Day.—
The Word preached was very sweet. *Psal.*
cxix. 57. Thou art my Portion, O Lord. He
came to a Use of Examination, What was
chosen by us for our Portion, whether God
was so?

1. When we are restless and uneasy, if
God hide his Face from us.
2. When a Person rests satisfied in the En-
joyment

joyment of God, in the Want of any Thing, or in any Trouble that befalls him.

3. Delightful Meditation of God, and taking Delight in his Ways. I dare not deny, but that I find Reason to hope, that this Character is answered in me, in some measure; and hope this Word will confirm me in my Choice. The Ordinances this Day have been exceeding sweet to me; so that I could say, *Lord it is good to be here.* I found my Heart to centre in God. I was loth to leave them. I hope I can find that I am uneasy, when I cannot enjoy God; and that I cannot enjoy myself, unless I can enjoy my God.

SEPTEMBER 20. 1713.

I would with my whole Soul say, Blessed be God for the Gospel, and Gospel-Ministers; and in particular for good Mr. B. who hath been labouring among us this Day. I would bless God, that ever I saw his Face and heard his Voice. How oft have I been refreshed by his Labours! I heard from him this Day, that *the Ways of Wisdom are Ways of Pleasantness, and all her Paths are Paths of Peace.* Blessed be God, it is so: yea, blessed be God for the Experience I have had in my own Soul of the Truth of this. Lord, I believe the Report that is given of thy Ways, and must own to thy Praise, great Peace and Pleasantness I have found in walking therein. I am fully persuaded there is no
such

such Satisfaction to be had in any thing else, as in the sincere Performance of our Duty. How good a Master do we serve, whose Work is Wages! in keeping his Commands there is a great Reward: a Reward before the Reward!

From what I have heard this Day, and what I have experienced in my own Soul, I would renew my Purpose, and strengthen my Resolution, of more close walking in the Ways of God; believing the more diligent I am, the more Pleasure I am like to meet with.

APRIL 28. 1729.

I have enjoyed another Season of Grace, when others of my Neighbours have been confined to their own Houses. I have heard a very needful Exhortation, *Harden not your Hearts*. I have had a Use of Examination pressed upon me. Blessed be God, I have Ground to hope, that I am not given up to Hardness of Heart; but that there is some Degree of Softness. O take away the Stone out of my Heart; renew me yet more and more. Forgive the Sins of this Day, for Jesus sake. I would resign myself this Evening into thy Hands, and leave myself and all mine at thy Feet.

*Hoping for Pardon in thy Blood,
I would lie down and wake with God.*

AUGUST

AUGUST 10. 1729.

O for Grace to make the best Improvement of what I have heard this Day, and hath been pressed upon me. I have heard of the Privileges of God's People, and their Description. I would here own, I not only like and love and approve their Felicity, but their Description. I as heartily desire to be made holy as happy. Write thy Truths upon my Heart, that I may live them over, and bring forth Fruit in my Conversation. O quicken thou me in thy Way.

CHAP. XII.

Her Thankfulness for Mercies received.

NOVEMBER 5. 1711.

THIS being a Day to call to mind former Mercies, when the publick Duties of the Day were over, I set the rest of the Evening apart to review the Mercies of my Life. The Privileges of my Birth are, I see, exceeding great; that I was born in a Land of Gospel-Light, is an invaluable Blessing; but to be born in *Kidderminster* is still a greater Mercy. And to be born of religious Parents, whose Care was to devote me to God, and educate me for God; who took me and set me under the Droppings of God's Sanctuary, and there I had the Advantage

Advantage of hearing one of the most eminent Ministers of Jesus Christ, worthy Mr. *Spilbury*.

Temporal Mercies also have been bountifully bestowed upon me. In this respect I can see myself a privileged Person. Abundance of Health and Ease, Peace and Prosperity, Fulness and Plenty; so that I have lacked nothing that is good for me. I would be thankful to divine Goodness, for placing me in such a State, that I am free from many and great Temptations that others are exposed to, and in Danger of being undone by. I can see Abundance of Love in my heavenly Father's Disposals. I bless God I am not ambitious of much Acquaintance in the World, nor of having much to do with it.

I bless God that has given me any Sense of the Mercies I do enjoy; but I am sensible I come far short of my Duty. I would have my Gratitude excited, and my holy Resolutions to endeavour after a more holy, humble, faithful, becoming Walking. O my Unprofitableness in the midst of Mercies! I cannot but reflect upon myself many Times, how unlike the Person I am, to and for whom God hath so wonderfully appeared. I might record many of the especial Favours of my God; the many Tokens of his distinguishing Grace. I would adore and bless him that he hath shed abroad his Love in my Heart, in a Degree beyond what I could

could have expected. Sometimes I have been enabled and encouraged to say, *My Lord and my God; my Beloved is mine and I am his.* And sure the Sense of redeeming Love hath drawn out my Soul, in Longings after him; that as the Hart panteth after the Water-Brooks, so panteth my Soul after thee, O God. So that I have longed after the glorious Liberty of the Saints above; and have found it the hardest Work many times to be willing to stay here. Nothing but a Compliance with the divine Will, can prevail with me. The dearest Enjoyments, the nearest Relations, are not to be compared with my Lord, who loved me and washed me from my Sins in his own Blood. How blessed are the Saints above, that are singing the Song of *Moses* and the *Lamb*! O I long to be there, where I shall serve him without sinning, and enjoy God without Interruption. Well, O my Soul, wait on the Lord and keep his Way; yet a little while, and he that shall come, will come, and his Reward is with him. O Lord, ripen me for Heaven apace; I shall never be well, till I come there.

How gladly would I leave behind,

These vexing Vanities!

I cannot but often say, Lord, when will it be? Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

But

But thy Time is the best Time. — Nothing but Glory can suffice.

DECEMBER 27. 1714.

I would remark something of the Experience I have had of God's gracious Appearance for me, when my Life was in imminent Danger. This Day as I was riding, my Horse threw me, when upon the full Gallop. When I first fell, my Foot stuck in the Footstool, but it was mercifully ordered, my Foot slipped and left my Clog. But when I was down, the Horse turned again and went over me, but through Mercy did me no Harm. I cannot but be somewhat affected at the gracious Appearance of God to me at this Time; that I was not dragged by the Foot; that would have been dreadful, for the Horse, as soon as I was down, ran with the greatest Fury, that if I had not been loosed from him, he certainly would have killed me instantly; and it is a Wonder of Mercy, that when he went over me he did not set a Foot upon an Arm or Leg, upon my Head or Breast, which might have proved of dreadful, if not fatal Consequence. By O my Soul, stand still and admire at the Salvation of the Lord. Through divine Goodness no Hurt considerable! one Arm a little disordered and painful. How good is God! I would look upon myself under fresh and strong Obligations, to love and serve

serve him at another Rate than yet I have done. I make a fresh Surrender of myself to God, the God of my Life and of all my Mercies.

H. P E A R S A L L.

J A N U A R Y 10. 1716.

I am now by the Disposal of Providence, brought into a new Relation and Habitation. O that I could find a new Heart, and live a new Life! I bless God my Lot is cast in this Place, where I am still in the Enjoyment of my near and dear Relations, and sit under dear Mr. *Spilbury's* Ministry, and have the Society of my Christian Friends. And I would bless him, that my new Relations and dear Yoke-Fellow are so agreeable to me; that they are those from whom I may have some Comfort. I would not overlook any of the kind Dealings of God, but eye him in all; looking upon every Person and Creature to be that, and that only, which God makes it to be. From the comfortable Experience I have of God's gracious Dealings in this Disposal, I must say it is good to pray to him; good to resign ourselves and all our Affairs into his Hands. I desire to go on in the Way of Duty, and hope in his Mercy, who hath been gracious, and I trust he will go on to be so. Lord, I am, I will be thine. Lord, save me, for I put my trust in thee.

H. H O U S M A N.

MARCH 28. 1728.

Renewed Experiences of God's great Goodness call for some suitable Returns. Sure the Voice of this late Providence is, *How great is his Goodness!* He hath been pleased to visit our dear Child with the sore Distemper of the Small-Pox; but how tenderly hath God dealt with it! the Distemper was kind and light, to what many had it. Its Life preserved, when it proved fatal to many. May we more heartily and cheerfully devote ourselves and our Child, to his Honour and Service.

FEBRUARY 7. 1729.

It is a cold and sharp Season. Blessed be God for the Coal Mines, as well as the Gold and Silver Mines. What Cause for Thankfulness, for the distinguishing Goodness of God, in the many temporal Mercies I enjoy in this severe Weather. I confess I want nothing so much as a thankful Heart and improving Spirit. I charge thee, O my Soul, not to rest satisfied in the Enjoyment of temporal Mercies, but make sure of greater; no less than an Interest in the Promises, and a Title to Glory.

MAY 5. 1729.

This Day we have had large experience of God's gracious Preservation of our dear Child,

Child, when in imminent Danger by *Water*. It was near unto Death, but God hath graciously preserved it. Help came in Time. O what shall I render to the Lord, for his seasonable Appearance in this Time of Need! Blessed be God, the Child is *alive*, I would offer it up a *living* Sacrifice; O may it be made accepted through the Beloved. I desire to get good by this Dispensation, both from threatned Danger and the kind Preservation. The Child I would afresh devote to God, and endeavour to impress on her Mind God's gracious Dealings towards her. She hath been in Deaths oft. O may it appear she is spared for signal Service in her Day.

NOVEMBER 27. 1729.

The Lord hath long ago proclaimed himself Lord God, gracious and merciful, and abundant in Goodness and Truth; and so by blessed Experience I find him to be. O that his Goodness may lead me to Repentance. I would remark God's gracious Appearance to my dear Child, when falling into a Kettle of hot Water. The Danger was great, and the Hurt not very small; but it might have been a great deal worse. The preventing Goodness of God was near, and did seasonably interpose. The Child had a comfortable Night, and is easy and pert this Day. By all Endeavours I am thine, and thine ever will be. Help me, Lord, to love thee, the

God

God of my Life, and the Preserver of mine. How signally hath God appeared for this Child! it hath oft been brought low, and the Lord hath heard our Prayers, and restored it to us again and again. And by Accidents it hath been in Danger from Fire and Water; and yet living to praise the Lord. She is not so much mine as thine.

FEBRUARY 15. 1730.

I have not had Time for putting down my Evening Thoughts as usual. Sometimes I am prevented doing what I would do, thro' Indispositions of Body. Blessed be God, that inclined me once to improve Health and Youth. Though I have it to lament that I improved my Time no better, yet I would be thankful, I had a Heart given to desire to improve it. I can reflect with some Pleasure, when I could redeem Time from Sleep and the Diversions of this World; when my Soul followed hard after God, *My God, my exceeding Joy*; when I could call the *Sabbath* my Delight, and long for its Return. I would this Evening record it to the Glory of free Grace. God hath done that for my Soul, for which I shall ever praise and adore his holy Name. I remember thy Kindness to me in my Youth, that so early convinced me of Sin and Duty, and drew me with the Cords of Love. I have not, as too many have, broke my Constitution by irregular

F lar

lar Living and sinful Courses; but the first Decay I felt was, I believe, from those lively Convictions made upon my Conscience by the Spirit of God, which oft spent frail Nature more than hard, bodily Labour; and these not Terrors, but such Impressions as quickened to and in Duty, and were afterwards more comfortable. Deep Humiliations I had, which led me on to Consolations, such as were neither few nor small. Such as were spending to the Body, but strengthening to the Soul. I can better think of them than express them. Such they are as give Ground of Support and Comfort in Prosperity and Adversity; in Health and Sickness, in Life, and I trust will in Death and at Judgment. Hath the Lord been thus gracious? what may I not infer and hope for from the Experience I have had of the Goodness of the Lord to me! Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me all the Days of my Life. *Hallelujah.*

OCTOBER 9. 1731.

Through the Mercy of God my dear Spouse is returned safe from *London*. We have had a very comfortable Meeting. Many Dangers he hath escaped, which have overtaken others; to God be all the Praise. He was seized with Illness, when there; but through Mercy it was taken off. His Horse fell under him, as he was coming out of *London*,

London, but through Mercy no Hurt at all. He might have been laid up there with a broken Bone; but all his Bones praise our great and kind Preserver. He escaped the Hands of violent, wicked Men, when others that lodged in the same Inn the same Night he did, fell into their Hands, and were robb'd and abused. How good is it to pray to God, and to put ourselves under his Care!

OCTOBER 29.

I have an awful Providence to record; which I would, the Lord assisting me, observe and improve to his Glory, and my own (and others that are most nearly concerned) spiritual Advantage. But O I want Words to express our Danger, it was so great, and God's seasonable Appearance in our Time of Need.

Upon *Wednesday* Morning one o'Clock, [*October 27. 1731.*] a Fire was discovered in our Dwelling-House. It pleased the infinitely good God to awake me at that Time. I knew not what Hour it was, nor what I heard; had not the least Apprehension of Fire or any Danger. I heard for some Time a great snapping and crackling, but knew not what to make of it. I awoke my dear Spouse, he raised himself up in his Bed, and presently said it was *Fire*. He got up instantly and ran soon after, and found a dread-

ful light Fire burning in the Kitchen Chamber. One Barrel of dry Fustick quite burnt down to a great, red, hot Glow; which had set another Barrel of Dye-Stuff all in a Flame; and the Wall in my Closet, which was enclosed out of that Chamber, on Fire also. Two Posts were on Fire, and the Laths were snapping in a dreadful Manner. This Fire had been burning four Hours, and was very near kindling in the Roof of the House; in all Appearance would in a quarter of an Hour. But our gracious God, that never slumbers nor sleeps, awaked me and brought us to see our Danger; gave my Spouse Courage and Conduct to exert himself. He fetched Water, and in a little Time extinguished it. To God alone be the Praise. We might have lost our Habitation, a great Part of our Substance, and Lives too, which were in imminent Danger. We have forfeited them into the Hands of his Justice, and he seemed to arrest them; but Mercy most kindly interposed, and said to the proud, devouring Flames, *Hitherto ye have gone, but no farther.* Accept our Tribute of Praise. We are preparing Songs of Praise. We have desired our Ministers and Relations and Christian Friends, to come and help us to love and bless the Lord. Lord, help us to do it in Sincerity, Humility, and Enlargedness of Heart. But why did not the Flames prevail and devour? O the tender Compassions

sions of a gracious God! Judgment is his strange Work! Methinks the Voice of divine Goodness has been, *How shall I give thee up, poor Family! my Heart is turned within me, my Repentings are kindled together.* But yet for my own Encouragement, I would humbly hope the poor Prayers and Services performed in this Place, have a Vein of Sincerity running through them, though mixed with many Failings; through a dear Redeemer, a gracious God will accept and be merciful. This Scripture also I look upon with Comfort, *I will not execute the Fierceness of my Anger. I will not return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not Man, the holy one of Israel in the midst of thee, and I will not enter into the City.* Not for, but according to my Prayers.

C H A P. XIII.

Her chusing God and rejoicing in him as her Portion.

FEBRUARY 21. 1731.

THIS Day I have been attending upon God in his Ordinances. I have heard of the Effect of worldly Sorrow; what Effect Crosses have upon worldly Hearts. I own I have experienced Trials of this Nature; and I would humbly hope I have experi-

enced suitable Support under them. At such a Time I have been enabled to bless a taking as well as a giving God. What I have heard doth much confirm my Hope, that my Portion is not in this World, because I can find I have chosen something better, more suitable to an immortal Soul; and that in the Loss of the Riches of this World, I can rejoice in God as my Portion, my everlasting All.

APRIL 18. 1731.

Blessed be God for this Day's Mercies. I have heard serious Truths, and hope I in some Measure believe them. *This is the Victory that overcometh the World, even our Faith.* Lord, I believe, help thou my Unbelief. I would believe more of the Vanity of this World and all its Enjoyments. I would not take up with the World for my Portion. No! *a God for me!* O Lord, thou knowest this is my most free, chearful, deliberate, delightful, resolved Choice. Let others take the Riches, the Honours, the Pleasures of this World; Lord, give me the Riches of thy Grace, the Treasure of thy Love, the Honour of being thy Child, and the Pleasure of Communion with thee, and I have enough.

MAY 8.

The Mercies of another Week call for my humblest Thanks. Blessed be God for the
Covenant

Covenant of Grace, that is well ordered and sure. *Well ordered* on God's Part for the securing his own Glory in the Salvation of Sinners. *Well ordered* on Man's Part, in providing for his Salvation, and Grace sufficient to enable him to come up to the Terms, and to enable him to persevere. His Promise is, to put his Fear into their Hearts; such a holy, religious Fear, as shall keep him close to God in a Way of Duty. O Lord, I rejoice in the Grace in which I stand. I hope I can say through free, rich Grace, *I am thine*: The Lord's Covenant-Servant, and his I will be for ever. That Grace that brought me into Covenant, will enable me to hold out even to the End. I desire to take the Comfort of my Covenant-Relation with the great God, and I give unto him the Glory of sovereign Grace. Grace! Grace! free Grace! rich Grace! distinguishing Grace! To thee alone be all the Glory. *Amen, Amen.*

N. B. *There is much more upon this noble Subject, scattered up and down in the foregoing Papers, under various Titles.*

C H A P. XIV.

Her Prayerfulness, and Prayers heard.

APRIL 2. 1711.

BEFORE I close up, I would remark one particular Instance of God's returning a gracious Answer to my poor Prayers.

I have observed of late, when I have been pretty much enlarged in Duties, especially on Lord's Days, it hath so tired and weakened my poor frail Body, that when I have come to engage in secret Duties in the Evening, I have been so dull through the Sluggishness of the Body, that I could sometimes do nothing; have been forced to give over, been ready to sleep at Prayer. I could say, I humbly hope in Sincerity, that the Spirit was willing, though the Flesh was weak. This Morning I earnestly begg'd of God Help against this; that he would so enable my Body to bear up, and go through with the Work of the Day, that I might go on without Weariness; and blessed be God, I have fresh Experience of his hearing my poor Prayers. Let this strengthen thy Faith and encourage thy Hope. He never inclines a Soul to seek a Blessing, but he is ready to give it.

SEPTEMBER 22. 1711.

This Day I must say, God is exceeding good. I find when God is about to give Blessings, he doth prepare the Soul, by drawing it out in earnest Desires. An Hour or two after my secret Duties were over in the Morning, I prayed a little again, and hope had a speedy Answer, for he satisfied me with his Presence. O blessed be his Name! My Heart through divine Goodness hath been
raised

raised much above the World ; and this Day as I have been employed about my earthly Business, have had the Tokens of God's Presence, earnest Longings of Soul after God, and more of himself, yea, the full Enjoyment of God in Glory.

MARCH 29. 1729.

This Day we have had something of a favourable Turn to our Business and Trade, which looks like an Answer to Prayer. We have been of late, under Discouragements ; my Eyes have been up to God, and I hope my Heart also. I have often spread the Case before the Lord, desiring to leave myself and all my Concerns in his Hand, at his Feet ; and hast thou heard my poor Requests ! O accept my sincere and humble Thanks.

CHAP. XV.

Her Resignations to the divine Will.

FEBRUARY 1. 1715.

I Would be entirely resigned to the whole Will of God concerning me ; with the greatest Sincerity say, " Here I am, do with me, Lord, as seemeth best in thy Sight. " Lord, how thou wilt, what thou wilt ; " I would be any thing or nothing, so God " may be glorified." O that in all I do and all that befalls me, God may be pleased with

me and glorified by me. I bless God it is not the great Things of this World that I aim at. No, I am rather afraid of them, lest I should be ensnared by them. It is not the Riches, Honours, Pleasures of this Life, that can make me happy. If God should bid me chuse for myself what Condition to be in, whilst in this Life, I would beg leave to refer it to him. I hope I can, I hope I have with abundant Satisfaction, left myself and all my Concerns in the Hand of God, and can in some Measure confide in his Love, Wisdom and Care of me; yea, his Truth and Faithfulness; of which I must own I have had rich and large Experience. I can, I do sometimes, reflect with a great deal of Pleasure, and call to Mind his gracious Dealings with me in his Providence; sometimes preventing, at another Time directing, and always designing me good. Yea, when he hath been crossing my Will, yet even then, his Path towards me hath been Mercy and Truth; and made those very Things, which I have been ready to say unbelievingly, make against me, to bring me nearest to God. Shall I not then rely upon him at all Times! His own Word of Promise is my Support and Encouragement. *They that wait upon the Lord shall want no good Thing, and they that seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, all other Things shall be added to them.*

A P R I L

APRIL 14. 1729.

This Day five Years I did experience much of the Goodness of God in a Time of Need. I was delivered of this Child, which through the Goodness of God is yet continued to us. I would this Evening present it a living Sacrifice to the Lord; O may it be acceptable through the Beloved. I would look upon the Child as only lent to us. May we be faithful in training it up for God. I would not be over-sollicitous how it shall be disposed of in the World; but would be seriously desirous to engage the Lord to be her God, her Father and Friend, and then it will be well with her here and hereafter. He hath been my God and my Guide from my Youth up. I would leave myself and mine, at the Footstool of divine Grace; chearfully resigning myself and all I call mine, to his all-wise Disposals, confiding in his Wisdom, Love and Care, and aiming at his Glory.

FEBRUARY 27. 1731.

This Day there are to be buried out of one House, two Children of the Small-Pox. O what Cause have I to be thankful that my dear Child is brought through that Distemper, which is so dangerous, and proves fatal to so many! But yet I would not forget she is a dying Creature; Death is still in Pursuit of her, and how soon it may overtake her
and

and take the Delight of our Eyes away, God only knows. I hope I have been enabled sincerely to devote her to God, to be saved by him in his own Way; yea, and (if my own Heart doth not much deceive me) to be disposed of by him, as he pleaseth, both as to Life and Death. I know whenever the Lord calls me out to bear such a Trial, it will be hard Work; but if he proportion my Strength to my Trial, I shall not faint. I would not distress myself with the Thoughts of what I may never live to see nor bear; neither would I be stupid or secure; but, the Lord enabling me, endeavour after an entire Resignation to the divine Will concerning me and mine. Lord, help me, for of myself I can do nothing. I do heartily desire a humble, meek, quiet Spirit, under all the Dispensations of a wise and gracious God: May I not say, *My God, my Father!* he is *my God*, and I will exalt him by a humble Submission and chearful, entire Resignation.

C H A P. XVI.

Her closing one Year, and beginning another.

§. 1. *New Year's Day's Papers.* *

JANUARY I. 1730.

I Am now come to the Beginning of another Year. How many of my Neighbours and Acquaintance have been removed

* See Chap. vii. 3.

this

this last Year, that were as likely to be alive now, as I was the Beginning of this last Year! They are taken, and I am left yet upon Trial. I have been this Day called to make my Choice, *Chuse you this Day whom you will serve.* I humbly hope I have been enabled long ago, to chuse the Lord to be my God, my Portion, my everlasting All. I rejoice in the Grace in which I stand, and in the Choice I have been enabled to make. I desire in the most sincere and solemn Manner, to renew my Choice, and stand to my former. O Lord, I am, I will be thine; thine in Sincerity, and thine for ever.

I would lament the Sins of the last Year, and beg Pardon for Jesus sake. I fly to the rich Atonement of thy Son's Blood, and lay this guilty Soul at thy Feet, crying, *God be merciful to me a Sinner.*

I would with my whole Soul bless God for the Mercies of this last Year, and say, Bless the Lord, O my Soul, who hath crowned this Year also with his loving Kindness, and made me experience his tender Mercies, as they have been ever of old. Come, love the Lord, O my Soul.

JANUARY 1. 1732.

Through the sparing Mercy of God towards me, I am brought to the Beginning of another Year. It is a Mercy denied to many. How many hath the Grave enclosed
this

this last! yet I am the Living to praise the Lord; and I *would* praise him with my whole Heart. The Mercies of the Year have been innumerable; they exceed the Hairs of my Head. I would lament the Sins of the Year past. How much precious Time have I lost, that is now past recalling! how many Opportunities have I lost of getting and doing good! Lay not the Sins of the Year to my Charge. There is Forgiveness with thee. Take away Iniquity, receive me graciously, love me freely, for thy own Name's sake, for thy Son's sake, in whom alone I trust.

I know not but my last Year may now be come. Well then, if it should be so, O my Soul, canst thou hope the Time of thy Redemption draws nigh! Blessed be God for a comfortable Hope through Jesus Christ.

§. 2. *The Return of her Wedding-Day.*

DECEMBER 13. 1728.

This Day we have been joined in this near and dear Relation 13 Years. Upon the Return of the Day, I have been making some Reflections, and find much Cause for Shame and deep Humiliation in the Sense of my great Unfaithfulness and Unfruitfulness towards God, and in the Station in which the Providence of God hath set, and still through
sparing

sparing Mercy continues me. I would pray, *God be merciful to me a Sinner.* And as my Sins are many and great, so the Mercies of the Lord are numberless. Those of this Year exceed Thought. I would this Evening set up my Stone of Remembrance.

DECEMBER 13. 1729.

This Evening I have been reflecting upon this Day 14 Years, when the Providence of God brought us into this dear Relation of Husband and Wife. Great Cause I have to lament that I have no better filled up my Place with useful Service. I would take Shame and lie low; and beg Pardon for my dear Redeemer's sake.

I would also call to Mind some of the very many Mercies I have enjoyed. How many Evils hath the Lord kept me from, which have overtaken others! We have had our Difficulties, but God hath graciously supported us. Sometimes Losses have been our Exercise; but our gracious Father hath been with us in six Troubles, and in seven he hath not withdrawn his Arm. We have not increased indeed, *as some others*; but we have wanted no good thing. Nothing so much as thankful Hearts and improving Spirits. And what a Shame is it, that they have been wanting! We have not increased in our Family; our tender Branches have been broken off, as they sprang from us. But we have

one yet continued to us ; a pleasant, hopeful and tender Child it is ; blessed be our gracious God. O that our *Ishmael* may live in thy Sight ! Hast thou not said, *I will be the God of thy Seed also !*

Blessed be God, we are yet a Family, not broken up by Death, nor any other distressing Providence, as is the Case of many at this Day. I know not what another Year may be to us ; it may be the parting Year. O that will be an awful Time, whenever it comes, both to that which goes and that which is left. Blessed God, prepare us. O may we at last meet, where we shall never part.

DECEMBER 13. 1731.

This Day 16 Years ago, the Providence of God brought us into the conjugal Relation. Goodness and Mercy have followed me every Year and every Day. How many Mercies hath he bestowed ! how many Evils prevented ! we are still a Family, in the Enjoyment of forfeited Mercies. I cannot enumerate those of one Day, of one Year, much less the Mercies of 16 Years. What shall I render ! Particularly I would here record the great Deliverance we had this Year from Fire. This might have been a remarkable Year, on Account of the sad Desolations made upon us ! But our God was the God of Salvation to us. Our Habitation
is

is still standing, and we in the comfortable Enjoyment of it.

C H A P. XVII.

Her Temptations and Victory.

No Date.

WHEN a poor Soul is made truly sensible of its miserable Condition, while a Slave to Satan, and therefore resolved to abandon his Service, and in good earnest chuse another Master, the Devil does many Times violently assault such a Soul ; but happy those that are enabled by Grace to vanquish.

One Time I remember, about two Days after I had renewed my Covenant at that solemn Ordinance of the Lord's Supper, Satan set upon me, presenting the World to my Thoughts, telling me that I need not tie up myself to so strict a Course of Life ; that I might let out my Heart sometimes ; that others did, and might do well enough. I was much disturbed at these Thoughts, and replied, " But can the World afford me any
" such Pleasure as the Service of God,
" and the Meditation of his Love and Grace?" The Temptation was still continued ; but I replied, " If others do mind
" the World, I have need to redeem my
" Time, for I have lost more than others,
" and I must work to Day, whilst it is call-
" ed

“ ed to Day, for the Night cometh when
“ no Man can work.” I remember I was
enabled to lift up my Heart to God for
Strength. Still Satan was busy, but I was
enabled to reply, “ Sure I cannot, I will
“ not be so ungrateful to my dear Lord,
“ when he hath been so amazingly kind to
“ me, as I had Experience so lately.” I
feared my Will was in all this, which
grieved me the more.

As soon as I could, I retired to find what
was the Matter, that I that so lately was ready
to say, I had done with the World as to
placing my Happiness in it, so that I thought
I could freely have bid an eternal farewell to
it, if it had pleased the Lord, should now
suspect my Sincerity, and fear that what I had
done, was done in Hypocrisy. I hereupon
endeavoured to enquire into that, and I hope
my Heart did not deceive me; I thought I
could discern my Sincerity still in the main.
I then renewed a Form of Covenant, that I
had wrote out some Years before; I cannot
deny, but that I found my Heart, as far as
I knew it, truly willing to stand to it, the
Lord enabling me. Herein I have Reason
to hope, that the Lord assisted me to over-
come this great Temptation. Then I went
to Prayer, and O! how was I assisted in it!
how good was God to my Soul! may I
never forget it. I hope I did then in an
actual Manner devote myself to the Lord,
and

and resolve to take faster hold of him, and beg farther Strength to resist all such wicked Motions and Suggestions. God graciously did help me, and gives me great Encouragement in all my Distresses to go to him for Help. What Peace and Satisfaction did I find in my Soul afterwards! I am ready to hope Satan hath got nothing by his Temptation; but that the Lord hath enabled me to live more above the World, than ever in my Life. I do here record this to humble me for my Vileness, and yet excite Thankfulness for God's seasonable Appearance to me in this Time of my Need. Had God left me to grapple with the Temptation in my own Strength, what had become of me! but adored be free Grace, that came to my Relief. O that God would still make good that Promise to me, that his Strength shall be made perfect in my Weakness. *Amen, Amen.*

CHAP. XVIII.

*Divine Manifestations and Withdrawment,
and her Frame under them.*

No Date.

I Would not forget how signally the Lord hath appeared to me, in affording me many (I hope) Consolations of his Spirit. O how sweet have I found God in secret Prayer and Meditation! therein I must say, I have

have found it good to draw nigh to God ; how to express it I know not : but sure I am, it was most sweet to my Soul.— One Time particularly, I remember in Prayer my Spirits were overwhelmed with Fears about the State of my Soul. I think it was about two Days before a Sacrament, and I was praying hard that I might be truly humbled for Sin ; at last my Spirit was revived, my Soul raised to such a Frame, that I could do nothing but admire free Grace. I cannot express what Consolations I felt after Soul-Humblings. God doth not break the Heart and then leave it ; no, he always binds it up ; he heals as well as wounds. This also I would record to the Glory of God, and for the Encouragement of my Soul. The Sacrament after, God was pleased graciously to assist me, in drawing out my Desires after him, and revealing himself to me. So sweet it was, that I could say, “ It was good to be here ; ” and I could have been contented to have parted with all that was near and dear to me in the World, to have always been so engaged ; I could then have been glad, I thought, to have been loosed from the Body, that my Soul might have been for ever at Liberty to have dwelt in such Enjoyments. O that I might never forget what I enjoyed at that Sacrament, and the Week following ; sure it was something of Heaven, it was so sweet. O Lord
my

my God, give out more such Manifestations of thyself to my Soul, that may make me long more for the full Enjoyment of thee in Glory. O! if the little Discoveries thou art pleased to make of thyself to my Soul, now my Capacities are so straitned, are so sweet, how sweet will it be, when thou shalt enlarge my Soul, to receive all that thou wilt give, and my Soul shall be filled as full of thy Glory as it can hold! But why me, Lord, why me, so unworthy, and who have deserved to be in Hell so many thousand Times! Even so, Father, because it seemed good in thy Sight. *Hallelujah.*

N. B. *More of these divine Discoveries may be found scattered up and down through these Papers.*

Some Time since I was in great Distress in a Sense of God's withdrawings, and my Want of those sensible Enjoyments of him and his comfortable Presence, which I had some Experience of, I humbly hope, some time before. This was upon a Humiliation-Day. I mourned, I wept, I prayed, but still I was greatly distressed. I thought I could have done any thing, parted with any thing, so I might but enjoy my Lord. I thought I could have been content to have parted with the nearest and dearest Enjoyments and Relations, so I might but enjoy his Presence.
Nay,

Nay, I could have been willing to have gone to the uttermost Parts of the Earth, and have dwelt in a Cave, so I might have had those sensible Enjoyments I desired. Under my Distress I could not but think honourably of God, and believe he had wise and gracious Ends in all his Dealings; and that it was for my Refining and not for my Ruin. I endeavoured to call to Mind his gracious Promises, that "Whom he loves, he loves unto the End." I find when a Person is under Distress upon Soul-Accounts, then is a Time to search the Scriptures; and God is pleased many Times to present and apply some suitable Word, to the removing of the Doubts, and strengthening the Faith of that Person.

In my Distress I took my Bible, and read the 40th of *Isaiab*; and when I came to the three last Verses, *He giveth Power to the Faint, and to them that, &c.* the Lord was pleased to make this a very comfortable Word; it supported my Faith, and made me resolve in the Strength of divine Grace, to go on in Duty, and humbly depend upon him for the fulfilling of his gracious Promises to my Soul. I hoped I could look upon him as *my God*, still in Covenant, and was resolved to go and throw myself down at his Footstool, and plead his Faithfulness. O! methought the having to do with a *faithful God*, was a great Support to me; this
Attribute

Attribute shone very brightly in my Eyes ;
and God was pleased to come in seasonably.
I was ready to say, I had fainted unless I
had believed.

C H A P. XIX.

Her Converſe with Eternity, and Preparation for it.

JANUARY 23. 1729.

ONE Day more to account for ! O my Soul, what haſt thou done this Day, in order to thy giving up thy Accounts comfortably ! O awful Thought ! to ſtand before an impartial Judge, to receive my eternal Sentence ! O Eternity ! Eternity ! how vaſt is the Thought ! how ſoon am I loſt in the Meditation of it ! Eternal Happineſs ! eternal Miſery ! how inconceivable are they ? I am near to one of theſe States, and I do loiter and trifſe ſtill ! O for a ſtrong and lively Faith to realize and bring near theſe inviſible Realities ! O my Soul how is it with thee ! haſt thou made ſure Work for Eternity ? I charge thee turn in and enquire what Change thou canſt experience. Thou art by Nature a Child of Wrath even as others ; it is Jeſus that delivers thee from Wrath to come. Haſt thou, O my Soul, out of a Senſe of thy Sin and Miſery, and deſpairing of Help in any other, fled to and laid hold of Chriſt Jeſus,

fus, as the only City of Refuge, and accepted him as Lord and Saviour, and given up thyself chearfully, heartily and entirely to be the Lord's! resolving to abide by his Merits, and trust to his Mercy; rejoicing in the Provision he hath made for Sinners, for poor repenting Sinners. I hope he hath made me as willing to be made holy here, as happy hereafter. Is not Holiness my Choice, and I hope in some Measure my Delight!

FEBRUARY 4. 1729.

Brought through another Day in Safety and much Mercy! O that I could converse more with the invisible Realities of the upper, better World! but alas what a Stranger am I to that noble Life! how am I enslaved to the Things of Time and Sense! O that I could look upon myself as a Stranger here. My Soul, this World is not thy Home; be wise in time, and prepare to go hence. Lay up a good Foundation against the Time to come. O dearest Lord, raise this dead Heart, give it a lift; set it upon the Wings of Faith and Love! O let this be the Victory that overcometh the World, even my Faith.

MAY 17.

I have been visiting an aged Christian Friend, that is come almost to the last Day of his Life, old Mr. *Taylor*; he is longing to be gone, to be joined to the Saints above.

O that

O that I may be looking more above, and by Faith be ascending after my glorified Friends, and be more longing to ascend to my glorious Lord and Redeemer! O what a joyful Meeting will it be for the Saints above! My Soul, look less to the Things which are seen and temporal, and more to the Things which are not seen and are eternal.

AUGUST 8.

This Day I have had many Warnings. I have seen one of our Neighbours carried to the Grave, who died in the midst of his Days. A great Loss to his Family! I hear of another that lies speechless, and the Bell is tolling for another; and I have been just visiting another, that seems upon the very Border of Eternity. O who would not be up and doing, while Time, and Health, and Ease doth last!

*Life is the Time to serve the Lord,
The Time to insure the great Reward;
And while the Lamp holds out to burn,
The vilest Sinner may return.*

I have at this Time some Return of my feverish Disorder; how it may be with me, I know not; I am in the Hands of a good and a gracious God, may I not say, my God, my Covenant-God and Father! Lord, here I am, do with me as seemeth good in thy Sight.

G

NOVEM-

NOVEMBER 12.

This Evening I have been attending a Neighbour's Child to the Grave; and have thereby been led near the Place where my dear and honoured Father and Mother and eldest Brother lay. I could not but turn and stay a little to view their Graves; it hath pretty much affected me. They were each of them lovely and pleasant in their Lives, and no less useful. O that we who are their near Relatives might follow them, as far as they followed Jesus Christ! They have run their Race, have finished their Course, and are now, through free Grace, receiving their Reward. O my Soul, shake off thy Sloth, and now give all Diligence to make thy eternal Happiness safe.

MAY 16. 1731.

This Day 4 Years ago, my dear and honoured Father took flight and departed this Life in Peace and Joy. He had in some good Measure of Sincerity, done the Will of God, and served his Generation; lived to see his Children's Children to his great Comfort: and now he is where he would be, serving God in a perfect Manner. Whilst here, he groaned under the Remainders of Sin, but now he is brought into the glorious Liberty of the Sons of God. He hath begun and is keeping an eternal *Sabbath* with his Lord and Master, whose Work was his most delightful Employ-

Employment, while here on Earth. Happy Soul! near and like thy God! for ever with the Lord! It is Matter of Lamentation that his Place for useful Service is not filled up. O how doth Religion seem to die with our Fathers! what Cause have we to cry out, *My Father, my Father, the Chariots of Israel, and the Horsemen thereof.*

C H A P. XX.

Her Longings after Glory.

AUGUST 1714.

HERE I live in a vain, ensnaring, diverting, distracting World! To my Shame I must own, I have been too much diverted by it, to the wretched Neglect of God, my Soul, and the glorious World above. But now, through Grace, I can see something of the Emptiness of it. I find by my own Experience, we enjoy this World best, when we keep at the greatest Distance from it, and look upon it with a holy Indifference. O my Soul, dost thou not pant after Holiness, before all the Enjoyments of this World! I had rather be holy than rich and honourable in the World; and perfect Holiness is that which I live in the Hopes of. To be perfectly holy here, I must not expect; but this is a Happiness well worth dying for. The Apprehensions of the Glory of Heaven, and the Happiness of the Saints a-

bove, make me pretty much reconciled to the Stroke of Death. Blessed be God that enables me to converse with it, with so much Peace in my own Mind. I humbly hope the Sting of Death is taken away, so that it can do me no Hurt; Christ by dying hath overcome Death; and

*Since none can see his Face and live,
For me to die is best.*

I bless God I can think of it with Comfort; nay sometimes my Frame is such, as makes me willing to run the Race set before me, whether of doing or suffering. I hope I can say, I am in some Measure resigned to the whole Will of God; but sometimes I find it the hardest Work in the World to be willing to stay here, on this Side the full, eternal and uninterrupted Sight and Enjoyment of God. Many Times when I think my Time is short, and Death is near, my Heart will, as it were, leap for Joy. I bless God, my present Frame is agreeable to what I here express, and so it hath been for the most part for some Years past; though it is not what I have thought fit to express to many.

I bless God, I can part with this World; there is nothing in it I much value; my near Relations are dearest to me; but yet they are nothing if compared with Christ, whom I love above Life. I know not how it will be with me, when I come to die; I

believe

believe my Comforts depend much upon the Influences of the Spirit; if he will please to smile, nothing can cast me down. Dear Lord, strengthen my Faith, inflame my Love, confirm my Hopes, increase my Humility, ripen me for Heaven apace. Yet a little while, and he that shall come, will come, and will not tarry. Even so come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

MAY 1716.

I have this Day been hearing of Heaven and the Felicity of the Saints above. O happy State! Blessed are they that are there. Heaven is a holy Place, and that makes it most desirable to me. I bless God I can yet rejoice, in Hope of that Happiness; and this Day have had some longing Desires to be there, and with Submission to the Will of God that it may not be long. To depart and be with Christ is far better than all the Enjoyments of this Life. I bless God I am comfortably settled, and very agreeably in many Respects. But this is not my Rest, it is defiled. How gladly could I leave it all behind! When I at any time seriously think Death may not be far off, I have pleasing Thoughts, and it tends very much to take my Affections from this vain World.

JANUARY 4. 1730.

Therefore it is of Faith, that it may be of Grace. From these Words I have heard two

excellent Discourses this Day. Blessed be God for Jesus Christ. I hope I am united to him by a lively Faith, and interested in his Merits and Satisfaction, and through him can look up with Boldness and Comfort. I long to get nearer to my Lord, and to be made more conformable to him. How happy the Saints above! how active their State! free from all those sad Clogs and Interruptions which I meet with. O my Soul, hold on, watch and pray, and continue the Conflict yet a little longer, and thy Work will be over. The Lord hath promised that, "Where he is, there shall also his Servants be." To be with the Lord! O what is that! to be near and like my God! O happy Time! O blessed Day! When, O when shall it once be! Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Some ACCOUNT of the Frame and dying Expressions of Mrs. HOUSMAN, during the few Days of her last Sickness, of which she died, Oct. 31. 1735. drawn up by her Servant who attended her.

THE Providence of God in the Death and Removal of my dear Mistress, seems to call on me to make some Remarks of what I was Eye and Ear-witness to, which I hope

I hope may be of Use to myself and many others. Her Words were very affecting to me, and I hope a Rehearſal of them may be ſo to thoſe into whoſe Hands this may come.

From the Time of her firſt Seizure, which was in the Evening of *October* the 26th, ſhe was exerciſed with very violent Pains, without any Intermiſſion till her Death; ſuch as ſhe would often ſay, ſhe thought ſhe could not have born; but ſaid ſhe, “ God is good, “ verily he is good to me, I have found him “ a good and gracious God to me all my “ Days.” Once I thought ſhe would have ſunk away under her Pains, they were ſo extreme and overwhelming; but by and by recovering, ſhe brake out into theſe Words, “ God is good, I have found him ſo, and “ though he ſlay me, yet I will truſt in him. “ Theſe Pains make me to love my Lord “ Jeſus the better; O! they put me in Mind “ what he ſuffered for me, to purchaſe Sal- “ vation for my poor Soul.”

I do believe ſhe had ſenſible Maniſtations of the Love of God, under her ſharpeſt Trials; for ſhe would often cry out, “ Why “ me, Lord, why me, the greateſt of Sin- “ ners! why me that ſtood it out ſo long “ againſt the rich Offers of thy Grace and “ the kind Invitations of the Goſpel! How “ many Helps and Means have I enjoyed “ more than many others, yea, above the

“ most! I had a religious Father and Mo-
 “ ther, and I had Access to dear Mr. *Spilf-*
 “ *bury*, to whom I could often and freely
 “ open my Mind. I have lived in a gold-
 “ en Age; I have lived in peaceable Times,
 “ wherein I have enjoyed great Advantages
 “ and Helps for Communion with God, and
 “ the Peace of my own Mind; for which I
 “ owe my gracious God and Father more
 “ Praises than Words can express. Bless
 “ the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is
 “ within me, bless his holy Name. Bless
 “ the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all,
 “ nor any of his Benefits.” She would often
 say, she could not find Words to express the
 Goodness of God to her, it had been so great
 and manifold.

I then said, Mistress, a thankful Heart
 never wants Mercies to be thankful for; to
 which she replied, She must own she had been
 very ungrateful to her good God, and at the
 same Time she must own to the Praise of his
 glorious Grace, that God had dealt very fa-
 miliarly with her in many and frequent In-
 stances from her Youth up.

I asked her how old she was, when the
 Work of Grace began to be wrought in her
 Soul? To which she replied, that when she
 was but Ten Years old, it pleased God by his
 Spirit sometimes to set in with the Word,
 and serious Impressions were made in her
 Mind; but after a while they wore off again,
 and

and then she was left under great Trouble and Distress; and then sometimes had some Revivings, and said she, I could not then open my Mind to any body; and thus it was with me till I was almost thirteen; and then one Lord's Day dear Mr. *Spilsbury* in preaching, was very pressing on us to close with Christ; and he said, "Do it now, before it be too late. Nay, go Home and spread your Sins before the Lord; confess that you have sinned and done very wickedly; lie before him in Dust and Ashes, and then give up yourselves to him without Delay; say not I will do it some time, but do it now this Night. Those of you that can write, go and set it down in writing, that from this Time you are and will be the Lord's." She said that she did accordingly, and from that Time she hoped the good Work went on prosperously.

She said, she could reflect with great Comfort and Satisfaction on those Days of Fasting and Prayer, and Covenanting with God in Secret, which she sometimes religiously kept in her Youth, when her Father and Mother were sometimes gone from Home, and she thought it would not be observed. And those Mornings, said she, when I rose so early to pray to God and converse with him, now they yield me great Pleasure upon a Review. There has been many a solemn Transaction between God and my Soul, when others were sleeping. O! those former Experiences now

yield me Comfort on a sick and (for ought I know) a dying Bed; and if Death should now come armed with all its Terrors, I am not afraid of it. O let all know I am not afraid of Death. But the Pains of dying may be terrible, I know not yet what that will be. When any were weeping and mourning over her, she would say, "Weep not for me, it is the Will of God, therefore be content; it is the Will of God. If it may be for his Honour and Glory, he will spare me a little longer; if not, I am wholly resigned to the Will of God; I am content to stay here, as long as he has doing or suffering Work for me; and I am willing to go, if it is my Father's good Pleasure; therefore be content, and say, It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good."

She said, she could part with all that was dear to her here, to go to Christ; it is hard Work indeed to part with my dear Husband; he has been a faithful, and a loving, tender Husband to me, the Lord reward him for it; and it is hard parting with my dear Child; I hope the Seeds of Grace are already sown in her Heart; the Lord cherish and cultivate them, that she may be a Comfort to her Father, when I am dead and gone. I cheerfully resign them to God, I have done with them, and heartily commend them to his Care, who is able to keep them from falling, and I trust will do it; and now I desire that

that those I love best, may be kept out of my Sight, for I have done with them, and can chearfully leave the dearest Creature-Enjoyments to go to Christ.

She then took hold of my Hand, and said, I wish thee well, and so I have ever since I knew you; and I look upon your coming into my Service as an Answer to my poor Prayers. I love thee very well, and hope you will do well; I have been constant and earnest in my Prayers to God for you; I intreat and charge you, keep close to God; never turn aside from him; this is my dying Advice, keep close to God and he will keep close to you; and now I commend you all to the Care of one whom I can with Comfort call, *My God, my true and faithful God.*

To one that came to her Bed-Side (M. B.) she said, O work while it is called to Day, for the Night cometh, wherein none can work; prepare for Sickness, for you know not how soon it may overtake you. Take my dying Advice, get an Interest in Christ by Repentance and Faith, and get ready for Death, for it may come at an Hour, that you think not of. It will come upon you ready or unready in a little Time; but keep close to God, and all will be well.

To another Gentlewoman that came to see her she said, "Cousin, I think I shall be dead, and now what a Comfort is it that
"I am not afraid of Death! the Blood of
"Christ cleanseth me from all Sin. But
mistake

“mistake me not, there must be a Life and
“Conversation agreeable to the Gospel, or
“else our Faith in Christ is a dead Faith.
“Secure Christ for your Friend; set not
“your Heart on Things below; Riches and
“Honours, and what the World call Plea-
“sures are all fading, perishing Things.”
She then threw out her Hand and said, “O!
“if I had Thousands and ten Thousands of
“Gold and Silver lying by me, what could
“they do for me, now I am dying?
“Therefore take the Advice of a dying
“Friend that wishes you well, do not set
“your Affections on Riches, or any thing
“here below; get Christ for your Friend,
“and then you need not be afraid of Death.
“Remember Death will come, whether you
“are ready or unready, willing or unwilling,
“in a little while. I commend you to
“God. I wish you well, and hope in a lit-
“tle while we shall meet again in Heaven,
“that Place of perfect Happiness, Pleasure,
“Rest and Joy. To live well is the way to
“die well. I can look back on former Ex-
“periences, and fetch Comfort thence, now
“in my dying Moments. It is worth while
“to be religious; to be seeking early after
“Christ and Grace; and for your Comfort
“know he stands ready even now to receive
“you, if you are but willing to close with
“him on the Terms of the Gospel; then he
“will be your Lord and Saviour. Live in
“Love

“ Love with your Husband ; walk together
“ in Love, and put each other on to get ready
“ dy for Death. Farewell, for I am going
“ the way of all the Earth.”

Once when there was some Remission of her Pain, she said, that when she was under the sharpest Pains, she endeavoured to keep up and maintain high and honourable Thoughts of God and his Goodness, and so she would to her Life's End, through his Grace assisting. And having hold on my Hand she said, “ Keep close to God ; I think
“ I shall not be long with you, but take my
“ dying Advice, keep close to God, and go
“ on in the way you have begun, and the
“ Lord keep thee from falling. I think we
“ shall not be long conversing together here ;
“ get ready for Death, that when it comes,
“ it may find you ready, come when it will ;
“ that in the other World we may meet
“ again with Comfort. O live well.” And at that Time she gave me several Charges more, which I cannot write down.

I think throughout her whole Time of Sickness, she was in a chearful thankful Frame. When she was cold, we used to give her something warm, and then she would say, “ Blessed be God for all his Mercies, and blessed be God for this Comfort
“ in my Passage through this Wilderness-
“ World.” When I warmed a Piece of Flannel and put it round her cold Hands, she thanked me for it, and said, “ O how
“ many

“ many Mercies have I ! I want for no-
 “ thing ; here’s warm Flannel, here’s every
 “ thing I can wish for ; I can say, I never
 “ wanted any good thing, I want nothing
 “ but an easy Passage to Glory.”

She often said, that her Privileges were greater than most others enjoyed. I have had, said she, a suitable, loving Husband, who was always tender of me, and my dear Child has been so too ; and I thank thee for thy abundant Care of me, which thou hast shewed at all Times, when I have been ill, and now at this Time ; and I hope the Lord whom I can with Comfort call, *My Lord and my God*, will reward you all for it ; and if you find any thing that I leave behind me that is good, be sure to make a good Use of it.

She said she would not have been always free from the Rod ; for she could say, that Seasons of Afflictions had been of great Use to her, they made her prize Health more, and improve it better. She said, “ it was
 “ free Grace that plucked her from the very
 “ Brink of Hell, and it is the Power of di-
 “ vine Grace that has supported me through
 “ the whole of my Life. Hitherto I can say
 “ the Lord is gracious ; he hath been very
 “ merciful to me in supporting me under all
 “ my Trials ; it is if need be that God, my
 “ good God, doth afflict me ; it is not be-
 “ cause he delights to afflict his Children,
 “ but it is at all Times for our Profit. I
 “ can

“ can say, it hath been good for me to be
“ afflicted, it hath enabled me to discern
“ Things, that when I was in Health I could
“ not. It hath made me to see more of the
“ Vanity and Emptiness of this World and
“ all its Creature-Comforts; for at best they
“ are but Vanity; Vanity and Vexation of
“ Spirit may be justly wrote upon them all.
“ I can say from my own Experience I have
“ found them to be so, many a Time.” I
think it was at this Time that she repeated
those Verses:

*Farewell, vain World, I bid adieu,
Thou canst not fill but cloy,
Thy Throne, O God, doth send forth new
And more refined Joy.*

*Mere Vanity doth Man pursue
With Eagerness and Heat:
The bravest Things the World can shew
Are but a perfect Cheat.*

*Who gain the Riches of the Earth,
Gain but a finer Dross.
Who gain a World, and lose a Soul,
Sustain the greatest Loss.*

*My Soul, there's nothing here that can
True Blessedness afford,
Ye painted Shadows, get ye gone,
Ye hold me from my Lord.*

*O happy They that only love
Their God, and him admire.*

That

*That I may taste those Joys that last,
I'll from the World retire.*

She seem'd to have no distressing Apprehensions, but all was serene and chearful within. When she was speaking of the Glories of the other World, she several Times expressed her longing Desires after the Enjoyment thereof in these Words:

Nothing but Glory can suffice

The Appetite of Grace.

I long for Christ with restless Eyes,

I languish for his Face.

I believe she had some Foretastes of the Joys of Heaven, before she was put into actual Possession thereof; for she would sometimes cry out, *O the Glory! O the Glory that remains for the People of God above.*

Once she said, "But what if after all I
"should deceive myself and Friends! Me-
"thinks the very Possibility thereof, were
"enough to make one tremble.

But the Lamb's Wrath they need not fear,

Who once have felt his Love;

And they that walk with God below,

Shall dwell with God above.

Rage Earth and Hell, come Life, come Death,

Yet still my Song shall be,

God was, and is, and will be good

And merciful to me.

The Day before she died, my Master came to the Bed-Side, and no doubt with a sorrowful Countenance; to whom she said, "Dear, I think I am going apace, and I hope you will be satisfied, because it is the Will of God. You have at all Times been very suitable, very loving and good to me, and I thank you for it kindly; and now I desire you freely to resign and give me up to God; do it now, go I desire you now and give me up freely. If God sees it best to prolong my Stay here upon Earth, I am willing to stay; or, if he sees it best to take me to himself, I am willing to go; I am willing to be and bear what may be most for God's Glory." And my Master accordingly with Tears in his Eyes, retired into his Closet.

The Evening before she died, before Night, she found Death stealing upon her, and feeling her own Pulse, said, "Well, it will be but a little while before my Work will be done in this World; then I shall have done with Prayer, my whole Employment then will be Praise and Love. Here I love God but faintly, yet I hope sincerely, but there it will be *perfectly!* *perfectly!* I shall behold his Face in Righteousness, for I am thy Servant, Lord, I am thy Servant, bought with Blood, with precious Blood; Christ died to purchase the Life of my Soul." And then as in a Rapture repeated the following
Lines,

Lines, though by Reason of Weakness she could scarce bring out the Words.

*Lord, I am thine, but thou wilt prove
My Faith, my Patience and my Love.*

What Sinners value, I resign.

*Lord, 'tis enough that thou art mine;
I shall behold thy blissful Face,
And stand compleat in Righteousness.*

*This Life's a Dream, an empty Show:
But the bright World to which I go
Hath Joys substantial and sincere.
When shall I wake and find me there!*

*O glorious Hour! O blest Abode!
I shall be near and like my God;
And Flesh and Sin no more controul
The sacred Pleasures of my Soul.*

*My Flesh shall slumber in the Ground,
Till the last Trumpet's joyful Sound,
Then burst the Chains with sweet Surprise,
And in my Saviour's Image rise.*

All this she uttered in a most pathetick Manner; it came with Life and Power to my Soul. Sometimes she would repeat Verses which I knew not where to find; often she repeated that Verse of Mr. Baxter:

*My Knowledge of that Life is small;
The Eye of Faith is dim;
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all,
And I shall be with him.*

“ A little while and I shall be singing that
“ sweet Song, Blessing and Honour, and
“ Glory, and Power be unto him that sitteth
“ upon the Throne, and to the Lamb for
“ ever and ever.” O what Smiles! what
Marks of longing Desire did I behold in her
Face, as if she was in a Transport of Joy!

She would often say, “ Come Lord Jesus,
“ come quickly; why are thy Chariot-Wheels
“ so long in coming! why tarry the Wheels
“ of thy Chariot! O blessed Convoy, O
“ come and fetch my Soul, to dwell with
“ God and Christ and perfect Spirits for ever
“ and ever. When I get above, to that
“ blessed Society above, my Pleasures will
“ never end. O the Glory! O the Glory,
“ that shall be set on the Head of Faith and
“ Love! I long for the glorious Convoy.
“ Come, blessed Saviour, come and fetch
“ my Soul to Glory. Come, Lord Jesus,
“ come quickly, come quickly, why art thou
“ so long! I long to be with Christ, and
“ hope in a little while I shall be with him,
“ where he is, to behold his Face in Right-
“ teousness; then shall I be satisfied, when
“ I awake in thy Likeness.”

She bad me many and many a Time look
on her. “ Look on me, said she, and learn to
die; for die you must and turn to Dust.” She
said, “ Death comes on gradually, but I am
“ not afraid of its Approaches; I can meet
“ Death in all its Terrors with Pleasure, be-
“ cause its Sting is taken away, and because
“ it

"it will bring me to Christ, my living
 "Head; I long to be with Christ, to be-
 "hold his Glory." And then with visible
 Marks of Pleasure, these Lines dropt from
 her dying Lips, (for her Flesh was almost as
 cold four Hours before her Death, as when
 she was really dead.)

O the Delights, the heavenly Joys!

The Glories of the Place!

Where Jesus sheds the brightest Beams

Of his o'erflowing Grace.

Then pausing, she said, "The Pains of
 "Death are great, but what will Glory be,
 "if I can but get thither!" Then she pro-
 ceeded,

Sweet Majesty and awful Love

Sit smiling on his Brow,

And all the glorious Ranks above

At humble Distance bow.

Princes to his imperial Name

Bend their bright Sceptres down,

Dominions, Thrones, and Powers rejoice

To see him wear the Crown.

Archangels sound his lofty Praise

Thro' every heavenly Street,

And lay their brightest Honours down

Submissive at his Feet.

This is the Man, th' exalted Man,

Whom we unseen adore:

But when our Eyes behold his Face,

Our Hearts shall love him more.

And

*And whilst our Faith enjoys this Sight,
We long to leave our Clay,
And wish thy fiery Chariots, Lord,
To fetch our Souls away.*

“ Come, sweet Jesus, come quickly, I long to
“ see thy blessed Face in Glory.” I should
have mentioned before, that a little before three
o’ Clock she was in great Pain, and I asked
her where her Pain was ; to which she replied,
“ It is in my Breast, it is a Stitch in my
“ Breast, and I think it is a Death-Stitch,
“ and I think it will not be long before this
“ frail, painful Life will be at an End ; and
“ I can say, if Life and Death were before
“ me, and I might have my Choice, I would
“ not chuse for myself, for I would not be
“ my own Carver ; I leave even this with all
“ my other Concerns to infinite Wisdom to
“ determine ; for I know that he will do
“ what is best for me, and for all that trust
“ in him for Help. Though my Pains are
“ great, I hope they are for my good, and
“ I would bear them with all the Patience I
“ can, knowing that e’er long they will all be
“ at an End ; all Sorrow will cease, and Pain
“ will cease and be no more ; hold out Faith
“ and Patience a little longer, for it will not
“ be long before this weary Soul will enjoy
“ perfect Rest. One Sight of my blessed
“ Saviour will amply make amends for all
“ the Pains that I have endured ; these light
“ Afflictions which are but for a Moment,
“ will

“ will issue in a far more exceeding and eter-
 “ nal Weight of Glory.” She then asked
 what the Clock struck; I told her it struck
three, at which she smiled and said, *but three!*
 I shall not be gone before six; and after this,
 was often asking whether it was six o’Clock
 (but it was about nine when she departed) at
 six o’Clock she counted it, and said, “ Now
 “ it is six o’Clock, come Lord, come *my*
 “ *Lord*, for I can say so with Comfort and
 “ Assurance, *my Lord* and *my God*, the God
 “ of my Youth, and he will support me in
 “ my dying Moments, and therefore why
 “ should I fear Death! O come, my Lord,
 “ I long to be gone, I long to be gone, to
 “ see my Lord clearly; here I can see him
 “ but through a Glass, but I long for the
 “ Time, when I shall see him clearly, as he
 “ is, Face to Face; when I shall dwell in his
 “ Presence, and serve him as I desire to serve
 “ him, and as he ought to be served, and
 “ that is perfectly; but this cannot be, till I
 “ am absent from the Body and present with
 “ the Lord.”

When Death was near, she was very sensi-
 ble of its Approach, and said, that she was
 going apace to the eternal World, and then
 she hoped to be free from all the Pains and
 Sorrows, Clogs and Incumbrances, she had
 been exercised with in this World; but she
 said, “ I do not hope for any thing as the
 “ Fruits of my own Merits and Righteous-
 “ ness, but of free Grace, and through the
 “ Merits

“ Merits of my dear Saviour, who hath
 “ brought me out of the Hands of all my
 “ spiritual Enemies that would do me any
 “ Harm ; and I can securely trust my Soul
 “ in the Hands of my dear Redeemer ; for I
 “ know whom I have believed, and in whom
 “ I have put my Trust, and am confident
 “ that he is able to keep what I have com-
 “ mitted to him against that Day.” And
 then said as follows :

○ *My Soul in thy sweet Hands I trust :*

Now can I sweetly sleep ;

My Body falling to the Dust,

I leave with thee to keep.

And again she said,

A Bosom Heaven will afford

To those that live unto the Lord,

One that was present told her, that there had been many Prayers put up on her Account ; to which she answered, she hoped they were all Prayers with Resignation.

She had such strong and eager Longings to be gone, that she would often say, and say it with great Earnestness, “ Come Lord Je-
 “ sus, come, for I long to be gone from the
 “ Footstool to the Throne, where there will
 “ be no more Death, nor Sorrow, nor cry-
 “ ing, nor any more Pain. O how sweet
 “ will it be ! it will be far better to depart
 “ and be with Christ for ever, for ever ! than
 “ remain in the present State of Sin and Sor-

“ row.

row. It is true, I love my Husband, I
love my Child, I love them dearly, and I
love Life; but I can cheerfully die and
leave them all, to go and be with Christ,
because it will be far better. His Arms are
open to receive me and bid me welcome,
welcome to Heaven, and all the glorious
Enjoyments thereof. O I long to be gone,
I long to be gone, to be with Christ, and
never, never part more. Come, my dear
Lord, I long to be dissolved; O why, O
why are thy Chariot-Wheels so long in
coming! make no tarrying, O my God."

A few Minutes before her Departure, she
felt herself going, and desired us to lift her up
a little, which we did, then she smiling said,
"Farewell Sin, farewell Pains." And so
finished her Course with Joy.

These and a great many more very af-
fecting Expressions, dropt from her dying
Lips, more than I am able to give an Account
of; but what I have written were her own
Words, as near as I can remember.

F I N I S.



